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24 PAGES 150 FILS

Kuwaitis vote for National Council

Elections mark new era of parliamentary life

KUWAIT, June 9, (Agencies): Kuwaitis go to the polls tomorrow to elect 50 of the 75 members of the National Interim Council, an interim legislative body which will draw up rules and functions for a new Parliament.

According to the covering decree issued April 22 by HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, the council has up to four years for the task.

The Amir will appoint the remaining 25 members of the council.

According to official records, only 62,000 males are eligible to vote in the elections from about 750,000 Kuwaiti citizens who form less than 40 per cent of the population of the state.

A total of 348 candidates will be running for the elections in 25 constituencies, each returning two deputies.

Most of the candidates have no previous political experience and belong to traditionally pro-government tribes. This is seen as a strong indication that tomorrow's balloting will produce a pro-government chamber that favours co-operation between the executive and legislature, diplomats said.

(Continued on Page 11)



UK soccer supporter Tom Shenidan arrives at Cagliari airport on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Oman offers mediation

UNITED NATIONS, June 9, (AP): The government of Oman, which has good relations with both Iran and Iraq, has offered its good offices to help settle the Iran-Iraq war and break the deadlocked peace talks.

UN diplomats said yesterday. Oman's UN charge d'affaires, Izzat Bin Sabeel Al Zaidy, delivered a letter from his government's Foreign Ministry on Thursday to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar about the Iran-Iraq stalemate, diplomats said.

UN officials confirmed that a letter had been delivered, but declined to divulge the contents. Officials of the Oman mission said only that a letter had been conveyed.

But diplomats from the region said that the letter concerned Oman's possible good offices. They said that the government of Oman was considering Muscat, the capital, as a site for new talks between Iran and Iraq and involving the secretary-general.

It was not known if Muscat was formally proposed as a site for talks.

Explosions in Somali palace

MOGADISHU, June 9, (Reuters): Two powerful explosions ripped through the palace compound of Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre last night, the president's press secretary said today.

Ahmed Hassan Awke said on state radio that the explosions were accidental and that an investigation was under way. He gave no further details of damage or casualties.

Government officials and diplomats could not be immediately contacted by telephone from Nairobi for further information.

Briton found dead in Muscat suburb

MUSCAT, June 9, (AP): A Briton has been found dead in his car in a Muscat suburb after apparently committing suicide, Western diplomatic sources said yesterday.

The dead man was identified as William Norgrove, 42, a physical training instructor from Darlington, England. He was married with a nine-year-old daughter.

Only males who have been Kuwaiti citizens for 30 years, and are 21 or older are allowed to vote.

The last attempt to enfranchise Kuwaiti women was defeated in 1985 by a vote of the Parliament, known as the national assembly, which was later dissolved.

Government-controlled radio and television carried on an intense campaign urging citizens to cast their votes and disregard opposition tactics.

"We are confident that the citizens will respond to the call of our beloved homeland by going to the polls tomorrow to elect the national council which will be the bridge for a safer parliamentary life," said a Kuwait radio commentary on the eve of the elections.

'Blueprint for war'

Arabs slam Shamir govt

AMMAN, June 9, (AP): Arabs warned today that Israel's new right-wing government sounds the death knell of Middle East peace, hopes. Kuwait's state radio branded Israeli policies "a blueprint for war."

Many Arab newspapers, reflecting mounting Arab anger at US support for Israel, blamed Washington for Israel's hard-line in refusing to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

In Jordan, Foreign Minister Marwan Kasseem said the government formed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir "will have negative effects in the region and it's a setback for all peace efforts."

"In its current formula and with Shamir's statements of his government's policies, all hopes for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East are destroyed," he told the Associated Press during a break in a parliamentary session.

Shamir yesterday formed a coalition government pledged to "uproot" the 30-month-old Palestinian uprising in the

occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Amid Arab alarm over the expected emigration of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel over the next few years, Shamir also said he will permit more Jewish settlements in those territories, which Israel captured from Jordan and Egypt in 1967.

The new government led by Shamir's Likud bloc also ruled out any talks with the PLO, which Israel claims is responsible for decades of killings and terrorism.

In the Gulf, newspapers and radio stations, which are usually pro-government, branded Shamir's government "a war cabinet" and urged the United States and other major powers to act to head off confrontation.

Kuwait Radio said the new Israeli government's programme was "a blueprint for war" and declared the United States would be held responsible for any Israeli aggression against Arab countries.

"The programme of the new Israeli government is ... a blueprint of the so-called greater

Israel and consequently a programme of war rather than peace," the radio said in its main news commentary today.

"The United States, by using the veto power, has blocked a resolution at the UN Security Council that would have provided for sending an investigation committee as a prelude for further measures to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories," it said.

"The response to the American veto was included in the programme of the new government, namely the determination to uproot the uprising," the radio added.

"The American administration will inevitably have to shoulder its responsibilities toward a bloody future in the Middle East being designed by the Israeli extremists," it warned.

Kasseem called on the United States to maintain its 18-month-old dialogue with the PLO, which most Arabs consider the sole negotiating agent for the world's 5 million Palestinians. (See Page 9)

US to cut off PLO contact

OMAHA, Nebraska, June 9, (AP): President George Bush said yesterday he is considering breaking off talks with the PLO after the "sheer terror" of a thwarted Palestinian attack on an Israeli beach.

In Washington, a senior administration official said he expected a 30-day suspension of the talks, though he said no final decision had been made and outright termination of contacts also was possible.

Bush called on Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat to publicly renounce the attack and suggested the continuation of US-PLO contacts depended on Arafat's response.

"Our dialogue is predicated on a renunciation of terror. In my view, this was sheer terror," Bush said.

Asked if, as several news reports have suggested, he was considering breaking off the talks begun in December 1988, Bush said, "we are discussing all of that. No decision has been made ... I'm not prepared to make an announcement on policy at this point."

In his first public comments on the matter, Bush criticised Arafat for refusing to condemn last week's attack on the Israeli coastline by the Palestine Liberation Front, one of the PLO's constituent groups. Arafat has said the PLO was not involved in the attack but has not condemned it outright.

Bush commented aboard Air Force One as he headed the end of a political fund-raising trip to midwestern states.

Shortly before he spoke, Secretary of State James Baker in Scotland for a Nato meeting, said the attempted raid "has to be taken very seriously." But he also said that "some perspective and responsibility is required in dealing with the issue" and that the Bush administration was seeking more information before deciding on possible action.

In Washington, an administration official said the United States has held at least four meetings with PLO representatives since the raid to discuss the organisation's views on it. The official speaking only on condition of anonymity, said no decision on breaking off talks was likely for a number of days.

Another senior official said he expects the administration to suspend the dialogue with the PLO for about 30 days. But he did not rule out outright termination if the administration concludes that such a message to the PLO is necessary. He, too, said no decision had been made.

Seles makes history - Details Page 24

Colombia beat UAE 2-0; Romania defeat Soviets



World Cup action

Colombian soccer player Leonel Alvarez (right) leaps hard for the ball against UAE's Ali Thana Juna during first half.

action in their World Cup soccer game in Bologna, Italy. Colombia beat UAE 2-0. (Reuters wirephoto)

See details on Page 24

Ethnic riots toll 102

Kirghiz-Uzbek border sealed

MOSCOW, June 9, (AP): Authorities have closed the border between Kirghizia and Uzbekistan to prevent the spread of ethnic violence that has killed more than 100 people, it was reported today.

The unrest was another in a series of ethnic headbashes for President Mikhail Gorbachev, whose policies have allowed many Soviet minorities to express long pent-up grievances.

Viktor Gusev, Uzbekistan's deputy interior minister, said in a telephone interview Aodjan was quiet later in the day.

An Interior Ministry spokesman in Moscow, Dmitri Solznev, said that as part of a state of emergency imposed in Uzbekistan yesterday, the entire border between the Andijan and Osh regions has been closed. This was accomplished, he said, using barricades and troops.

The Tass news agency said today the death toll from a week of violence between the two ethnic groups, sparked by a land dispute had risen. It quoted the Kirghizian Interior Ministry as saying, "102 people have been killed, 66 of them in the Uzen district, and 436 have been wounded since Monday."

Kirghizia's leaders declared Monday an official day of mourning for those killed in the unrest, the government daily Ivestia reported today.

Tass said a total of 225 residences, 31 state buildings and 62 cars have been torched since the violence broke out over allocation of plots for housing.

Under treatment

Poison found in Frank Reed

BOSTON, June 9, (AP): High levels of the poison arsenic were found in freed hostage Frank Reed shortly after his return to the United States from Lebanon, hospital officials said yesterday.

Reed, 57, has been undergoing treatment at a military hospital since shortly after his release on April 30. Sixteen Westerners are still missing and believed held hostage in Lebanon. They include six Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Italian and an Irishman.

The arsenic showed up in a routine test by doctors treating Reed at Malcolm Grow Medical Centre, a hospital at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington.

These tests were performed on Reed's arrival. The initial test for arsenic was positive. Subsequent tests confirmed this exposure to arsenic and its elimination to a non-toxic level," the hospital said.

(See Page 9)

Capital crime

Manila approves anti-coup bill

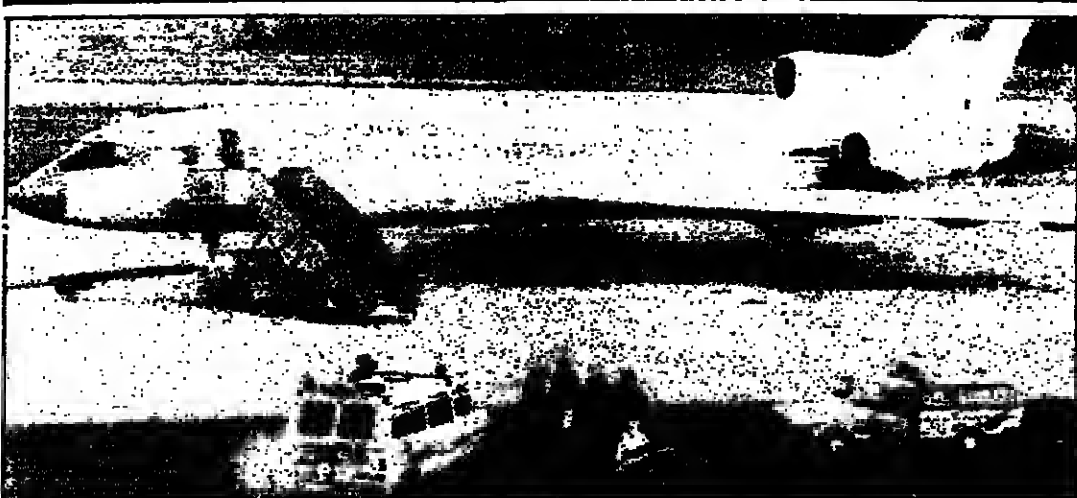
MANILA, June 9, (UPI): The Philippine Senate, granting what President Corazon Aquino described as an urgent request, unanimously approved a bill making a coup d'etat a capital crime.

The Senate voted 20-0 yesterday to pass the bill at the request of Aquino, who has survived six coup attempts in her four years in office and earlier in the week lost a court battle aimed at keeping one of the alleged plotters in jail.

The vote also came one day before Friday's expiration of Aquino's limited emergency powers granted

by Congress in January mainly to deal with the economic impact of the Dec 1-9 coup attempt.

Under the legislation, a coup d'etat is defined as a "swift attack accompanied by violence, intimidation or threat, directed against the person or office of the president, vice-president and speaker of the house or any military camp or installation, communications networks, public utilities or other facilities ... with or without civilian support or participation for the purpose of seizing state power."



Hijacker surrendered

A Soviet youth using a fake hand grenade hijacked a Soviet airliner to Stockholm's international airport yesterday and surrendered to police, officials said.

The alleged hijacker, 17-year-old Dmitry Semionov, told interrogators he decided to leave the Soviet Union after his parents kicked him out of their home, according to Barry Ivarsson, a police inspector at Arlanda international airport.

"Of course, there is more to it. Nobody hijacks a plane for that reason," Ivarsson said. He declined to elaborate.

None of the 114 passengers or seven crew members on board the three-engine Tupolev 154 was hurt, police said.

Picture shows the hijacked plane on the tarmac. (Reuters wirephoto)

Blood derived from cow successfully tested on humans

UNITED NATIONS, June 9, (Reuters): A Boston-based medical company announced yesterday the completion in Guatemala of the first phase of clinical tests on humans of a blood substitute derived from cow's blood.

The announcement was made at a press conference at the United Nations sponsored by the Guatemalan UN mission and attended by officials of the Biopure Corporation as well

as doctors from Guatemala and the United States involved in the trials.

They said successful tests on the haemoglobin product, called haemopure, began in February at the Herrera Llerandi Hospital in Guatemala City. It had earlier been tested on animals.

Haemopure is intended as a product that performs the oxygen-carrying role of

haemoglobin, free of the Aids virus or other contaminants that sometimes occur in human blood.

A group of 12 paid volunteers from Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United States and Guatemala took part in the tests and had so far displayed no side effects, reporters were told.

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Accused Sikh named as head priest

AMRITSAR, June 9. (Reuters): A Sikh accused of killing a religious leader was named today as head priest of the Akal Takht (eternal throne) in the Golden Temple, the highest seat of Sikh temporal authority.

The committee which manages most of the Sikh temples in India named Ranjit Singh as the new head of the Akal Takht.

Singh is facing trial in New Delhi for the murder in 1980 of the head of the Nirankari sect of Sikhism.

Tamils' meeting banned, 87 held

THANJAVUR, India, June 9. (Reuters): Police in southern India arrested at least 87 people today for defying a state government ban on gathering for a Tamil nationalist conference.

Organisers blamed the Indian government, battling separatist violence in the northern border states of Kashmir and Punjab, for the ban on the weekend conference called to demand greater autonomy for the country's 55 million Tamils.

Hardliners in Tamil Nadu state have fought a long campaign against what they see as political domination of the south by north Indians 2,000 km (1,250 miles) away in New Delhi.

"We want to secure recognition of the Tamils as a distinct nationality of India which should in all fairness be only a federation of nationalities," said one Tamil leader, Perumthirar (one name).

The 87 arrested in Thanjavur town in Tamil Nadu state included leaders of groups demanding Tamil Nadu's secession from India and politician P. Nedumaran, who is president of the hardline Tamil National Movement.

Nedumaran told reporters as he was being arrested that the chief minister of Tamil Nadu, Muthuvel Karunanidhi, had succumbed to pressure from the north in announcing the ban.

He said the conference was not called to demand secession.

The conference was banned on the grounds that a photographic exhibition was planned depicting what the Tamil politicians said were atrocities committed by Indian troops who spent more than two years on a peace-keeping mission in Sri Lanka.

Karunanidhi has himself accused the Indian troops of using harsh measures against Sri Lankan Tamils in trying to put down an uprising in the Tamil-dominated northeast of the island.

The troops withdrew earlier this year after the Sri Lankan government complained the troops were hampering an internal settlement between the Tamils and the majority Sinhalese.

Chairman of the Sri Lankan northern peace committee, Justice Minister Shafiq Hameed, is scheduled to visit seaport town of Trincomalee, to discuss with the leaders of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on the general situation in the area, security sources said today.

Hameed is expected to discuss with the LTTE delegation the forcible occupation of land belonging to the government and those of the Sinhalese by cadres of the LTTE.

The Sinhalese settlers had left their lands during the occupation of the Indian peace-keeping force.

Storm hits north Bangladesh town

DHAKA, June 9. (AP): A storm tore through the northern town of Rangpur, injuring at least 50 people and flattening more than 1,000 mud and straw houses, the Ittefaq newspaper said today.

The Friday night storm also uprooted dozens of electricity poles, disrupting power in Rangpur, 250 kms (155 miles) northwest of Dhaka, the Bengali-language daily said.

The storm packed winds up to 90 kms (56 miles) an hour and pounded the town with hail and rain. Ittefaq said no deaths were reported.

Tropical storms in March and April killed more than 270 people in Bangladesh, a low-lying nation often hit by cyclones, tornadoes and floods.

Singh creates confusion

Idea of national govt disarms premier's critics

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, June 9: Three days after he first commended the idea, people and political parties in India are still trying to figure out what exactly Prime Minister V. P. Singh had in mind when he said that he favours a national unity government.

Since then, neither Singh nor any of his advisers has elaborated on the idea, and the net result is that it has created a lot of confusion. The rather casual manner in which the prime minister commended the proposal — during a chat with reporters on the flight back from the G-

15 summit at Kuala Lumpur — seems to have become its undoing.

As things have turned out, the idea has not found much support among political parties, even the ruling National Front. The Congress (I) and the other opposition parties have opposed the proposal as having been expressed in a "tactical move."

National governments can be thought of when the country is faced with major external or internal challenges, but most political leaders doubt whether such a situation exists in India today, notwithstanding all the troubles on different fronts.

Singh is understood to have not even consulted his own party colleagues or any close associates before speaking out on the subject.

The most plausible explanation is, of course, that Singh had made a smart counter move to thwart any attempts to topple him from within the ruling front itself.

What Singh supported on Tuesday was the proposal for a national government, with representatives of all political parties, including the Congress, after arriving at a consensus on major issues facing the nation. Arguing that he wanted the country to move from personalised politics to issue-based politics, Singh even expressed his readiness to step down from office if that could help bring about such a consensus.

Singh's statements came at a time when the National Front government was facing increasing pressure from several quarters. A few days before Singh left for Kuala Lumpur, Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, in a newspaper interview, threw up hints of a change in leadership while expressing confidence that the National Front would have a full five-year term in government.

Around the same time, Devi Lal's supporters, notably farm leader Mahender Singh Tikait, talked of "prime minister Devi Lal" and of a "farmers leader" hoisting the national flag from the ramparts of Red Fort on August 15, Independence Day.

This was followed by reports that leaders of some political parties, excluding the BJP, had made secret moves for a national government and that the Congress (I) had tried to woo the left parties away from Singh.

At the other end, George Fernandes was learnt to be bitter about being divested of the responsibility for Kashmir. Simultaneously, some 50 Janata Dal members of Parliament dashed off a memorandum to Singh, asking that Mufti Mohammed Sayeed be replaced as home minister.

Punjabis are not much happier for the government in the idea of sending Nirmal Mukherjee, a retired bureaucrat, as governor in place of Sidharth Shankar Ray — one of the first important decisions taken by the new government — has not quite worked out.

Mukherjee has now resigned but the centre is yet to find a replacement. Several people approached are learnt to have turned down the difficult assignment.

Added to all this is the problem of the rising prices of various essential commodities.

It is against this background that the prime minister's move has to be judged. If the aim was to disarm his critics, Singh would seem to have succeeded for the time being at least. But he has also managed to raise questions about the government's ability to tackle the problems facing the country and invite accusations that the ruling party is wasting energy fighting each other over unfulfilled ambitions.

Raid on jail Police seize TV, VCRs

KARACHI, June 9. (Reuters) Pakistani police raided the high-security jail for weapons but instead found prisoners with illegal luxury items such as television sets and video-cassette recorders.

The raid was carried out yesterday after reports that some of the 4,000 prisoners in the 19th century jail had weapons for a possible jailbreak, the Police said today.

"No arms were recovered," a jail official said.

However, 13 televisions, 32 radios, seven video-cassette recorders and 23 video cassettes had been recovered, police said.

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Total strike

Armed policemen stand guard in the deserted street to avert trouble in Amritsar on Thursday as Sikh militants called for total shutdown strike to mark the anniversary of the 1984 storming by Indian troops of the Sikh's holiest shrine, the Golden Temple at Amritsar. (Reuters wirephoto)

Indo-Nepal agreement

Singh, Bhattarai discuss details

NEW DELHI, June 9. (UPI): Indian Prime Minister V. P. Singh and his Nepalese counterpart, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, today discussed details of a proposed agreement aimed at ending a 14-month-long trade, a Foreign Ministry official said.

The second round of discussions between the two leaders lasted an hour during which they discussed Indo-Nepalese ties that touched rock-bottom over trade, transit and defence issues, the official said.

Yesterday, the two neighbours agreed to end their 14-month-old dispute with New Delhi agreeing to a separate trade and transit treaty as demanded by Kathmandu.

Nepal, which is sandwiched between China and India, agreed that it would take into account the security concern of India. India had objected to Nepal buying arms from China, saying it violated a 1965 bilateral treaty between Nepal and India.

Bhattarai began the second day of a three-day trip to India

with a visit to the riverside memorial of India's independence leader Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi.

He later called on the Indian President Ramaswamy Venkatarman, who hosted a lunch in his honor.

The visitor also met with former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and other Indian leaders.

Land-locked Nepal depends on the eastern Indian port of Calcutta for its exports and imports. The goods are moved by truck through 15 border checkpoints, all but two of which were closed by the government of Rajiv Gandhi when bilateral trade and transit treaties expired in March 1989.

The closures greatly restricted the amount of goods moving in and out of the tiny Himalayan kingdom, resulting in shortages of fuel and medicines and increased inflation and severely damaging bilateral relations.

The Indian government contended it wanted to negotiate a single treaty on trade and transit

that would close loopholes it claimed were being exploited by Nepalese businessmen.

But foreign diplomats and Nepalese officials said New Delhi was actually angered by Kathmandu's purchase of anti-aircraft guns from China, India's rival for influence in the kingdom, and was using the dispute to pressure Nepal to accept it as its sole weapons supplier.

Press Trust of India said the agreement implied that India will now open all the 13 entry points along the Indian border into Nepal that were closed on March 23, 1989.

Indian officials were not immediately available for comment.

Nepal said it wanted separate treaties on trade and transit facilities, but India wanted the two issues to be combined into a comprehensive agreement.

Bhattarai arrived in New Delhi Friday, saying he would resign if his three-day visit did not yield a breakthrough on the dispute.

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Court rules against the 'angel of death'

Doctor's plea for panel to study suicide device

DETROIT, June 9, (AP) — The inventor of a device, a 54-year-old woman used this week to commit suicide asked a circuit judge yesterday allow him to form a committee to establish an international "planned death policy."

Dr Jack Kevorkian told Judge Alice Gilben he wanted to form a committee with members from all sectors of society that would study his device, which involves injection of coma- and death-inducing drugs, and the circumstances under which it could be used.

The panel would establish a policy "for the world" for use of his invention, Kevorkian said, promising he would refrain from using it

again until the committee completed its work.

The judge yesterday temporarily restrained the retired pathologist from again using his so-called suicide machine in the state.

Kevorkian, described by state officials as an "angel of death," said the ruling had effectively put him out of the suicide business.

"It's the end of Dr K helping people die," said Kevorkian, referring to himself. He said the next time a potential suicide called him, he'd say "I'm sorry, I can't help you. I sympathise with your plight, but there is nothing I can do."

Oakland county prosecutor Richard Thompson took Kevorkian to court, seeking an injunction barring further use of the device that killed Janet Adkins of Portland, Oregon.

Although Michigan has no law against assisting suicide, Thompson has said authorities are investigating the possibility of charges against the doctor, and they don't want the device used again.

Adkins killed herself Monday after Kevorkian hooked her to the machine and she pressed a button to release the lethal chemicals.

Fewer than half of the states have outlawed helping someone commit suicide, but law professors say the legality of such assistance is open to interpretation.

Meanwhile, a survey in USA Today found that two-thirds of people say the terminally ill should be allowed to end their lives, and medical facilities should be available to help them do it.

The phone poll of 724 adults, with a sampling error of 3.5 per cent, also found 28 per cent feel Kevorkian should be prosecuted and 43 per cent said he shouldn't be punished.

Although authorities failed to subpoena Kevorkian at his Royal Oak home Thursday, they did serve papers to his sisters, Margo Janus of Troy and Flora Holzheimer of Frankfurt, West Germany. They allegedly were present in the Oakland County Park where Adkins died in the back of Kevorkian's 1968 Volkswagen van.

Assisting a suicide is a crime in 23 states and three US territories said Robert Brown, professor and director of the health law centre at the University of Detroit Law School.

In those jurisdictions, assisting suicide is classified as a unique offense, manslaughter or murder, Brown said.

States and territories with laws against aiding suicide include: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin and the Virgin Islands.

"I think it's unlikely that Michigan is going to become the suicide haven of North America," Brown said. "There may be an aiding and abetting statute in which a prosecutor may squeeze these facts in."

Suicide is legal in Michigan, but Professor Yale Kamisar of the University of Michigan Law School said the legality of assisting a suicide is open to debate.

Use of suicide machine rapped

MAASTRICHT, Netherlands, June 9, (AP) — Euthanasia practitioners attending a 21-nation mercy killing conference on Friday accused a retired American physician of moral cowardice for providing a suicide machine to end the life of an Alzheimer victim.

Janet Adkins died on Monday in the back of Dr Jack Kevorkian's van after injecting herself with a lethal chemical, sparking a major legal and medical debate in the United States.

But at the eighth world conference of the International Federation of Right-to-Die Societies, the case was regarded as so unimportant that it wasn't even discussed in public doctors said.

Dr. Piet Admiraal, one of two Dutch physicians who have spearheaded a 15-year campaign for the full legalisation of euthanasia in the Netherlands, said he had been approached by Kevorkian for help but had refused it.

"I tried to explain to him time and again we don't need such a machine here," Admiraal told the Associated Press.

"I prefer to simply inject (the lethal drugs) myself, and if the patient prefers to do it we give him a (euthanasia) drink."

Admiraal described Kevorkian as "a very odd, possessed man... if they don't prosecute Kevorkian, anything goes, just anything will be possible."

Dutch legal and medical authorities widely approve of the principle that patients be allowed to opt for death when they face pointless suffering or terminal illness.

However, mercy killing is still technically on Dutch law books as a crime carrying a 12-year maximum prison term.

Euthanasia advocates in the United States have noted Kevorkian set up the button-operated intravenous drip in his parked van 40 miles (65 kilometres) east of Detroit because Michigan has vague laws on doctor-assisted suicide.

Mrs Adkins, a 47-year-old resident of Portland, Oregon, travelled 2000 miles (3,200 kilometres) to be connected to the suicide machine.

Herbert Cohen, a Dutch general practitioner also known for his willingness to perform mercy killing said Kevorkian had used the device "just so he could run away" from the moral repercussions of Mrs Adkins' death.

In yesterday's conference address Cohen made no direct reference to Mrs Adkins' case but urged his colleagues to take the time to "sit down hold hands" with patients who ask to die.

"You cannot... discuss Euthanasia, standing at the foot of the bed in a white coat mumbling Latin incantations," Cohen told his audience of physicians, lawyers and right-to-die activists on the second day of the gathering which discussed legal, ethical and psychological aspects of the right to die.

On Thursday, Admiraal described the semi-official guidelines under which Dutch doctors are usually immune from prosecution in Euthanasia cases.

In line with those requirements, patients must have asked to die voluntarily and persistently, and physicians must consult with colleagues and the patients relatives.



Kevorkian shown explaining his plan to develop a team of death specialists and to found a clinic to assist terminally ill patients who want to use his suicide machine. (Reuters wirephoto)

Linked to Alzheimer's disease

Immune system

SUN CITY, Arizona, June 9, (AP) — Two prescription drugs now used to treat arthritis show promise in combatting Alzheimer's disease, according to researchers at Arizona's Institute for Biogerontology Research.

Institute director Dr Joseph Rogers said preliminary research has shown that Indocin, an aspirin-like drug, and Prednisone, a steroid drug, may help arrest the progressive mind deterioration of Alzheimer's patients. The drugs currently are used to treat rheumatoid arthritis.

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, irreversible brain disorder that causes an estimated 150,000 deaths in the United States each year. Most victims are over 65, but it can strike people in their 40s.

Symptoms include gradual memory loss, impaired judgement, disorientation, personality change, difficulty in learning and loss of language skills. No cause or cure is known.

Rogers said his institute's early research has indicated that people with arthritis have only one-tenth of the expected incidence of Alzheimer's after being treated with the drugs.



Bush addresses Mad Dads

President George Bush holds little James Edward Edward after addressing a Mad Dads (Men Against Destruction-Defending Against Drugs and Social Disorder) rally in Omaha June 8. James Edward's grandfather laughs at right. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Wilding' trial begins June 13: youths to be tried for rape, attempted murder

NEW YORK, June 9, (UPI) — More than a year after a woman jogger was gang-raped, bludgeoned and left for dead in Central Park, three youths are to be tried for rape and attempted murder in the "wilding" rampage.

In the first in a series of criminal trials of six youths indicted in her attack, jury selection is slated to begin June 13 for defendants Antonio McCray, 16, Yusef Salaam, 16, and Raymond Santana, 15.

Prosecutors expect to call 50 witnesses — one of whom may be the 29-year-old

woman jogger — during the trial at state supreme court in Manhattan.

Each youth is charged with second-degree attempted murder, first-degree rape, first-degree sexual abuse in the attack on the woman.

Each also is charged with first-degree assault, first-degree robbery, second-degree robbery, second-degree assault and first-degree riot for attacks on two men joggers.

Because McCray, Salaam and Santana were under 16 when the crime occurred,

they face a maximum of 4 to 10 years behind bars if convicted of the most serious charge — attempted murder.

If sentenced to jail time, they would be held in a juvenile detention centre until age 18, then transferred to an adult prison to finish the sentence.

Prosecutors say they were among 30 youths who entered the moonlit park on April 19, 1989, with plans to go "wilding" — randomly harassing and mugging passersby.

The gang attacked a homeless man eat-

ing his dinner near the roadside and two male joggers running around the reservoir. During the two-hour crime spree, a couple on a tandem bicycle and a male jogger managed to outrun them and get away.

But the woman investment banker jogging along the 102nd Street transverse was not so lucky.

She was jumped by the pack, bashed in the head with a pipe and dragged into a muddy ditch. When she mustered the strength to scream for help, she was punched in the face into unconsciousness.



World's strongest man

Dace Gauder billed as The Strongest Man on Earth trains for his attempt to pull an American B-52 bomber shortly before his successful attempt June 8. The plane weighing 108 tonnes moved two inches. The

event was a part of the Boscomb Downs Air Show which is taking place this weekend in England.

Trump to host Douglas fight

NEW YORK, June 9, (Reuters) — Donald Trump, taking a beating in his personal and financial life, is ready to pay up to \$14 million to lure high-stakes gamblers to his casinos by staging heavyweight champion James "Buster" Douglas's first title defence, banking sources said.

The real estate tycoon, battered by a storm of speculation over whether he can service his \$2 billion debt, is looking for a boost by playing host to the expected Douglas defence in September against number-one contender Evander Holyfield.

A letter of credit up to \$14 million is ready for approval, "a source close to one of four banks which would be involved in granting the credit line told Reuters yesterday."

Trump paid \$11 million in June 1988 as the site fee for the Mike Tyson-Michael Spinks heavyweight title fight. The previously unbeaten Tyson lost his crown in February when he was sensationally knocked out by Douglas in Tokyo.

Apart from the money brought in at the gate of the Atlantic City convention centre — where ring-side seats were sold for \$1,500 each — fight fans gambled an Atlantic City record of \$51 million at the Trump Plaza, which is attached to the convention centre.

The house usually earns about 16 per cent of bets.

Such a big event would also be a public relations shot in the arm to help dispel the rumours and news stories about the shaky state of Trump's empire.

Trump has repeatedly said he is not having cash-flow problems, but banks apparently have been pressuring him to restructure his debt. A \$30 million payment due to Trump castle bondholders in mid-June is seen as a key payment.

Purse bids to promote the Douglas-Holyfield fight will be made tomorrow and the leading contender is Dan Dura of main events which has handled most of Holyfield's bouts.

"He needs it now more than ever," Bert Sugar, the publisher and editor of Boxing Illustrated magazine, told Reuters in explaining the importance of the fight to Trump.

'Cancer' woman wins damages

LONDON, June 9, (Reuters) — A British woman forced to undergo years of painful treatment after her hospital records were mixed up with those of a cancer sufferer won £155,000 (\$260,000) in damages yesterday.

Sandra Evanson, 42, went through surgery and several courses of radiation therapy that made her hair fall out before the error was discovered. Seven years of treatment, during which she spent 13 months in hospital cancer wards, left her severely depressed and unable to work.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Hospital seeks to end life support

Comatose baby

PITTSBURGH, June 9, (Reuters) — In a confrontation that reverses the normal roles, a Pittsburgh children's hospital says it will seek court permission this month to cut off life support for a comatose baby.

Most "right-to-die" cases have pitted parents who wanted their permanently comatose children to be allowed to die against hospitals or nursing homes that refused to withdraw life support.

But in the Pittsburgh case it is children's hospital that wants to end treatment and the child's father who wants to continue life support for two-year-old Leslie Michael Crane, who has been in a deep coma since December 6, 1988.

David Crane, 33, has told hospital officials he fears his wife Tracey will be charged with murder if Leslie is allowed to die.

She was convicted of shaking Leslie until his brain was severely battered when he was seven weeks old and is serving a sentence of six to 20 years at a Pennsylvania state prison. She was placed on probation in an earlier case in which she threw an infant daughter across a room.

OWENSBORO, Kentucky: Eager to propose marriage in a big way, Chris Booth popped the question to longtime sweetheart Donna Hagan with a message on a billboard.

The red, white and blue sign just off the highway reads, "Donna, will you marry me? Chris."

"I just wanted to do something different," said Booth, 22. "We've been dating so long."

Booth said he and Ms Hagan, 23, first became sweethearts about 10 years ago.

He made sure she saw the billboard Friday night by taking her for a "little drive" past the sign located near the junction of two US highways. (AP)

WEST HOLLYWOOD, California: Two men who went to a bank branch hoping to buy travellers' checks found it apparently open but definitely empty.

The lights were on Saturday but the City National Bank vault was closed and computers and typewriters were off.

Brad Hahn said he and Max McBeth thought robbers might have tied up employees behind the counters but nobody answered when they yelled and jumped up and down in front of security cameras.

The men finally called sheriff's deputies. Hahn said he even took a call from another bank asking to verify funds in a savings account.

Deputy Dave Osman said bank employees closing down Friday afternoon apparently left the door unlocked or perhaps janitors forgot to close up.

C'est la vie!
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Sabancaya spews lava

Smoke and ash billows from a volcano in the south of Peru. The 20,629 foot (6,288-metre) Sabancaya began spewing lava June 8. (Reuters wirephoto)

Nicaragua devalues currency 11th time

MANAGUA, June 9, (AP): Nicaragua devalued its currency for the eleventh time yesterday as President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro prepared her proposals for greater economic co-operation to deliver at a Central American summit.

The official ratio of the Nicaraguan currency, called the cordoba, rose from 170,000 to the US dollar to 185,000. Gas prices also increased by 1.4 cents a gallon.

A typical Nicaraguan wage-earner makes \$30 a month. The exchange rate was 58,500 and 90,000 when Chamorro was inaugurated in April, taking over from a leftist Sandinista government defeated in February elections.

On the eve of the devaluation and price hike, presidential spokesman Danilo Lacayo said the economy will be the main subject of the summit, scheduled for June 15 in Guatemala.

"Democracy will be established in the same measure that economically strong countries give Central America the chance of pulling ahead," he said in comments broadcast Thursday night.

"Social and economic development benefits peace in the region," he added, speaking on Radio Nacional.

Lacayo said Chamorro's administration has contributed its share to bringing about peace in the region.

"Don't Violeta will arrive at that summit with concrete results of the Esquipulas peace plan," Lacayo said on Radio Nacional.

"The first concrete result is the demobilisation of the resistance (Contras) which is being carried out day by day," he added.

"In second place Don't Violeta takes a plan to reduce the army, which is something that always has been talked about in the peace plan."

Esquipulas is the name of a pact signed Aug. 7, 1987 by the presidents of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras and Guatemala to bring peace to Central America.

Nicaragua hopes to promote peace and economic development with the help of \$300 million in emergency aid approved by the US Congress last month and \$120 million promised to Nicaragua during a conference of donor countries in Rome on Thursday.

The donor countries also promised an additional \$180 million to Nicaragua for 1991.

The dismantling of the Contra rebel army, sluggish at first and suspended several times, has picked up steam since rebel leaders and Chamorro's administration signed a protocol May 30.

The protocol details the humanitarian aid the rebels will receive to help them re-enter civilian life and grants them their own police force in regional development centres the government will set up for the disarmed guerrillas.

Contra leaders have estimated the size of their forces at 13,000. The UN Security Council yesterday extended the mandate of UN observer group in Central America for 19 days in order to complete the lagging demobilisation of the Nicaraguan rebels.

Neck-to-neck race

Peru to elect president today

LIMA, June 9, (Reuters): Novelist Mario Vargas Llosa or Japanese immigrants' son Alberto Fujimori will be elected Peru's president tomorrow after a bitter, polarising campaign but pollsters said the roller-coaster race was now too close to call.

Fujimori, an agronomist struggling to regain his once-ample lead in opinion polls, spent Thursday

Simmering racial and religious divisions, centring on Fujimori's Japanese ancestry and his support among Protestant Evangelists in this overwhelmingly Catholic country, have also burst forth in the campaign.

"Our development plan will benefit the poor of Peru, not the same old power groups," he told a rally in the southern city of Arequipa on Thursday night.

Fujimori, who surged from nowhere to finish just behind Vargas Llosa in the first round of voting on April 8, has built his campaign on opposition to Vargas Llosa's so-called shock plans to revive the country's moribund economy.

Fujimori and leftist leaders who back him say Vargas Llosa's plans to privatise state-owned firms and end food subsidies would throw millions of Peruvians out of work and plunge industry into an irreversible recession.

"At the ballot boxes, the people must express their rejection of the shock proposed by the Democratic Front," said Fujimori, referring to Vargas Llosa's centre-right coalition.

Fujimori's late father, a tailor, arrived almost penniless in Peru in 1934. Fujimori's mother, who speaks little Spanish, arrived in Peru a few years later.

Vargas Llosa, trying to cut into Fujimori's support among the poor, spent the campaign's final hours touring dusty shantytowns on the outskirts of Lima and praising free-market capitalism as the solution to Peru's economic ills.

"We want an efficient state. We're going to privatise the public sector, end state monopolies and give humble Peruvians the chance to acquire property," he said in a television debate with Fujimori on Sunday.

Vargas Llosa, a socialist-turned-admirer of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, has vowed to imitate parts of bold anti-inflation plans in Mexico, Bolivia and Brazil to slash Peru's inflation, now running at 2,000 per cent a year.

He will need a strong showing in the capital, where 40 per cent of voters live, to beat Fujimori

and yesterday touring the impoverished Andean highlands, seeking the votes of peasants in areas where leftist guerrillas are active.

The campaign has polarised the country along class lines, with the rich backing centre-rightist Vargas Llosa and the poor mainly behind Fujimori, political analysts said.

Quake strikes Peru

Eight killed

LIMA, Peru, June 9, (AP): Three earthquakes shook Peru's northern jungle, killing eight people and injuring at least 37, authorities said today.

The quakes struck at 11:45 pm Friday (0445 GMT), at midnight (0500 GMT) and at 5:00 am today (1000 GMT) in the same area that was hit by a major quake 11 days ago, according to a spokesman for the National Geophysical Institute in Lima.

The institute said it did not have a reading on the intensity of the latest tremors. The May 29 earthquake measured 6.3 on the Richter scale and killed at least 56 people and injured 800.

The areas affected include the villages of Porvenir and Nuevo Cajamarca, as well as the cities of Rioja and Moyobamba, the main towns in the agricultural zone 400 miles (670 kms) north of Lima.

"Some houses have fallen down as well as a number of public buildings," said the institute spokesman.

Many buildings in the area had been seriously damaged in the May 29 earthquake, which left thousands homeless.

Hardest hit in the earlier earthquake was the village of Soritor where at least 23 people died. The town, six miles (10 kms) south of Moyobamba, was almost completely destroyed.

More than 70 aftershocks were registered in the days after that quake, all with epicentres around the Rioja area.

Many people are still without shelter in the affected zone, and are sleeping in the streets of the various villages.

A radio reporter at the scene today morning said relief agencies had brought a total of 120 tents, but at least 1,000 were needed to house all the victims.

The Richter scale is a gauge of the energy released by an earthquake, as measured by the ground motion recorded on a seismograph.

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He will need a strong showing in the capital, where 40 per cent of voters live, to beat Fujimori

OAS adopts watchdog unit

ASUNCION, June 8, (UPI): The general assembly of the Organisation of American States yesterday unanimously approved the creation of a pro-democracy watchdog unit.

The proposal was sponsored jointly by Costa Rica and Canada — the latter country making its debut as a member of the OAS.

Canada, by its own choice, was only an OAS observer until last year, when its membership application was approved, enabling that country to attend the OAS General Assembly for the first time this year.

The OAS General Assembly, which shifts yearly in different countries, was held from June 4 to June 8 in Asuncion.

Barry weighs re-election bid, to meet Jackson as jury selection crawls

WASHINGTON, June 9, (AP): Aides say Washington Mayor Marion Barry facing trial on drug charges, has not decided whether to run for re-election and would discuss his political future with black leader Jesse Jackson.

The first week of jury selection ended yesterday in Barry's trial on drug possession and perjury charges. The selection process is expected to continue through next week.

Barry was arrested Jan 18 after an FBI sting operation at a Washington hotel and charged with smoking crack cocaine.

The possibility of a plea bargain involving an announcement that Barry wouldn't run for a fourth term has been much discussed, especially after Jackson publicly encouraged Barry to make such an announcement.

But Barry's spokeswoman Lurma Rackley said, "there is no official plea

Canada nearer to resolution of crisis

Meech Lake accord to be ratified

OTTAWA, June 9, (AP): Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and 10 provincial premiers early today appeared close to resolution of a constitutional crisis that reignited talk of Quebec's secession from Canada.

But at least one premier said a "roadblock" remained in the way of the Meech Lake Accord, which was designed to lure Quebec into the national constitution.

"There is an agreement in principle," Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa said today. "It is a very great day for Canada ... and it's a very

good day for Quebec because Meech Lake will be ratified" by its June 23 deadline.

Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon, one of the three premiers originally opposed to the accord, said his province had agreed in principle to the deal.

But Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells, another of the three premiers whose objections made the current talks necessary said some sticking points remained and "there is a roadblock."

Wells said he wants the preliminary text prepared by lawyers shortly after midnight to be clarified before a deal is formally signed later today.

British Columbia Premier Bill Vander Zalm told reporters the premiers and Mulroney had agreed to a package of future constitutional reforms.

Mulroney said lawyers would work overnight to translate "complex concepts" into appropriate legal language.

"These things are never really final until they're all signed, sealed and delivered," he said. "There remains some very important work to be done."

Mulroney had supported Meech Lake, but was willing to compromise, to secure a constitutional agreement.

The finishing touches would likely be applied today when the session is reportedly to go public for the first time after it reconvenes at 10 am (1400 GMT).

Early today, many of the 300 or so other onlookers chanted, "we want to know, we want to know" as the political leaders left the conference centre. The leaders had been meeting behind closed doors since Sunday in Hull, Quebec.

Quebec refused to sign Canada's 1982 constitution because it believed its distinct nature had not been properly considered.

In an attempt to address the French-speaking province's concerns, the premiers and Mulroney in 1987 reached the five-point Meech Lake accord — named for the lake resort near Ottawa where it was signed.

But since 1987, governments in three provinces have changed, and the new premiers have refused to go along with the agreement. The impasse has led to talk about Quebec's secession.

Manitoba, Newfoundland and New Brunswick were the original holdouts. New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna was the first to yield, agreeing to the accord June 4 after intense discussions.

Critics fear a clause in Meech Lake recognizing Quebec as a "distinct society" could undermine protections provided by the country's bill of rights. Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa, who refused to compromise on the clause, says most legal experts agree it would be used merely to interpret the charter and confers no new powers on the province.

Saturday, Manitoba Premier Filmon was confronted by law-maker Ethel Blondin — and Dene Indian from the northwest territories — as he headed to his hotel room.

She accused Filmon of betraying aboriginal people by not insisting their rights be constitutionally entrenched now.

"You've let us down, Mr. Filmon," she said. "You've let us down."

The new federal proposal expected to be announced today would not alter the distinct society clause, but it would propose a clarifying statement to be prepared by constitutional experts.

In addition, a "Canada clause" demanded by Manitoba to expand the definition of Canada's fundamental characteristics would be considered later, possibly in a series of parliamentary hearings this summer.

The federal proposal also offered a national commission that would pursue reforms to more equitably divide seats in the 104-seat upper senate chamber.

Meech Lake also gives all provinces expanded powers. Its other four points concern methods of amending the constitution, the power of provinces to opt out of some federal-provincial spending programmes and nominations to the supreme court and senate reform.

Quebecis voted in 1980 as a proposal to open talks with the federal government on a plan allowing Quebec political autonomy. The proposal was defeated.

Barry was arrested Jan 18 after an FBI sting operation at a Washington hotel and charged with smoking crack cocaine.

The possibility of a plea bargain involving an announcement that Barry wouldn't run for a fourth term has been much discussed, especially after Jackson publicly encouraged Barry to make such an announcement.

But Barry's spokeswoman Lurma Rackley said, "there is no official plea

America

No proof of drug claims: Attorneys argued Friday that the government has no proof that millions of dollars seized from Florida banking institutions in a crackdown on alleged money laundering are linked to drug trafficking.

US District Judge Leonore Nesbitt heard two hours of arguments, but delayed a ruling on a motion to dismiss charges arising from the government operation known as Polar Cap.

The US government originally seized 658 accounts across the nation, but subsequently released all but 102, including the 88 South Florida accounts that were the subject of Friday's action. (AP)

Parents urge tougher laws: The parents of two teenagers killed in work accidents urged the US Congress on Friday to pass tougher child labour protection laws, with penalties including jail terms for serious violations.

"When child labour laws are not strictly enforced, employers have nothing to fear from the exploitation of teenagers in the work place," Claude Huot of east Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, told a House of Representatives hearing.

His son Michael, 17, was crushed to death in 1986 in a compactor at a store where he worked. (Reuters)

Columbia flight delayed: Launch of the Shuttle Columbia, crippled by an elusive fuel leak, will be delayed until at least mid-August, clearing the way for its sister ship Atlantis to take off next month on a military flight, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said.

"The initial reaction is disappointment because we were ready to go," said astronaut Jeffrey Hoffman, a member of Columbia's seven-man crew. "On the other hand, who wants to fly with a leaky orbiter?"

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration said "budgetary pressures" and the lack of a "firm near-term requirement" for the spacecraft influenced its decision. (AP)

Rocket launch successful: A giant Titan 4 rocket thundered into orbit Friday with what's believed to be a military surveillance satellite. Air force officials said the early morning launch went smoothly.

It was the second launch of the nation's most powerful unmanned space rocket and one of three planned for this year.

"Everything went very well. It was beautiful to behold," said Air Force Col Frank Stirling director of the Titan programme. "It was a great step for us in the air force to get the second Titan 4 launched on time as planned." (AP)

Ex-Playboy model convicted: A federal court jury in Milwaukee Thursday convicted a former Playboy magazine model on four counts of failing to declare income she allegedly received with her twin sister from a millionaire in exchange for sex.

Leigh Ann Conley, 36, was convicted of failing to file federal income tax returns for the years 1984 through 1987.

The federal government said Conley and her twin, Lynette Harris, received more than \$1 million from David Kritzak in exchange for sex and companionship, including \$400,000 paid to Conley. (UPI)

Clean-up efforts: Clean-up crews laboured to contain blobs of oil floating on the waters of the Kill Van Kull Friday in Bayonne after officials arrested the first mate of the British-registered tanker New Jersey that speeded 260,000 gallons (984,000 litres) of heavy oil.

Authorities charged the first mate of the 811-foot (247-metre) tanker Bt Nautilus with operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The Kill Van Kull and the Arthur Kill, a second shipping channel between New Jersey and New York, have had four major oil spills this year. (AP)

Kiki agrees to testify against

Noriega co-defendant pleads guilty

TAMPA, Florida, June 9, (AP): The sole co-defendant in Manuel Noriega's Tampa drug indictment agreed yesterday to testify against deposed Panamanian strongman as his "silent partner" in a reputed drug trafficking ring.

Panamanian businessman Enrique "Kiki" Pretci pleaded guilty to conspiring to take bribes from Tampa-based smugglers to help ferry \$300 million worth of Colombian marijuana through Panama.

As part of his plea agreement, the 47-year-old Panamanian acknowledged working with two convicted Tampa drug smugglers in a partnership called Servicios Turisticos, set up in

laundry drug proceeds. "A fourth silent partner in their business was Gen Manuel Noriega," charged a plea agreement submitted to the court.

The document alleged that Noriega and the other partners received a commission each time

Steven Michael Kalish deposited drug proceeds in Panamanian bank accounts. Kalish has pleaded guilty to other drug charges and is co-operating with the government.

The document said the smugglers had conspired to bring 400,000 pounds (180,000 kilograms) of marijuana into the United States hidden in banana shipments.

The partners were to receive \$4 million, but Kalish was arrested before the shipment was completed the document alleged.



Emporia resident Chuck Merchant exhibits what is left of his home June 8 after a tornado ripped through the community of 25,000. (Reuters wirephoto)

Chinese acupuncture gains popularity in Turkey

ANKARA, June 9. (Reuters): Fifteen men and women await their turns, listening to high-pitched Chinese music in a large room adorned with Far Eastern decorations.

Engineer, Ozcan Ozkoceli, 29, draws hungrily on a cigarette he hopes will be his last. "I've been smoking for 12 years," he says. "I've tried to quit

many times but the results were frustrating. "Acupuncture seems to be the final hope."

The ancient Chinese therapy of sticking fine needles at certain points of the body has gained popularity in Turkey in the last decade.

Some 2,000 doctors now practice acupuncture, mainly on patients who hope to lose weight or quit

smoking. The cost has so far restricted its appeal to a well-to-do minority seeking an alternative to Western medicine.

Only 10 of the doctors, however, have specialist degrees in acupuncture and more than 100 people with no medical qualifications at all are practising the technique, medical sources said.

Some advocates claim acupuncture may be used to treat almost any ailments. Critics dismiss it as, at best, no better than Western medicine.

But while the debate continued the authorities are making plans for control, requiring doctors to attend courses and obtain licences before performing acupuncture. Ferhan Ozmen, undersecretary at

the Health Ministry, told Reuters.

Dr Ali Sezen, trained in the therapy at a Sri Lankan university, says that "overweight patients can easily lose 25 kg (50 pounds) in two months by acupuncture. It also gives very good results in treatment of asthma and infertility."

"Acupuncture is simply the self-renewal of the

human body. It resets the disrupted energy balance of the body which is the main cause for illnesses."

"Our bodies have more than 12,000 sensitive points. The only thing acupuncture does is to arouse them with pins and direct the body to repair the malfunctioning part," Sezen said.

Ramsay received \$5 million

One of the most serious breaches



Ramsay is shown in downtown Tampa June 7 after his arrest. (Reuters wirephoto)

TAMPA, Florida, June 9. (AP): A brilliant former US Army sergeant received up to \$5 million from East bloc countries for secret Nato plans detailing the nuclear defence of Europe, an FBI investigator said yesterday.

"It's one of the most serious breaches ever — it's unprecedented what went over to the other side," said Joe Navarro who led the FBI's probe.

Roderick James Ramsay, 28, who was arrested Thursday night on a downtown street, appeared before a federal magistrate here yesterday. He was charged with conspiracy to gather or deliver defence information to aid a foreign government, the FBI said. The magistrate continued the hearing until Tuesday.

Ramsay used a miniature cowbell on a key ring to identify himself to other members of the spy ring, an FBI agent testified on Friday.

Ramsay faces a maximum penalty of life imprisonment if convicted of espionage conspiracy.

He has been co-operating with authorities in the probe, said Navarro.

Ramsay worked in West Germany from 1983 to 1985 directly under Clyde Lee Conrad, 43, a retired US Army sergeant convicted of treason by a West German court and given a life sentence earlier this week, the FBI said. It said Ramsay's arrest stemmed from the investigation

of Conrad.

Navarro told US magistrate Elizabeth Jenkins that Ramsay had a high IQ, spoke Japanese and German, and "had the ability to recall minute details, facts and figures — some from documents he hadn't seen in five or six years."

That information included sensitive documents on the use of tactical nuclear weapons by US forces and Nato allies and plans for the defence of Central Europe, the Justice Department said. Ramsay also leaked technical manuals on military communications technology and material about the co-ordination of Nato forces.

The material was passed to Hungarian and Czechoslovakian intelligence agents, according to the court papers.

"From our investigation, we know it went to the Soviets," Navarro said. "I know of no other case where so much information was compromised at one time."

Although Ramsay told the FBI he received only \$20,000 agents estimate he was paid between \$2.2 million and \$5 million for his information, Navarro testified. But Ramsay somehow lost access to that money, he said, and wound up sleeping in his car.

Prior to joining the army, Ramsay robbed a bank in Vermont in 1981, and tried to erect a hospital safe, Navarro said. The agent also said Ramsay told the

FBI as recently as a month ago that he did not mind going to prison, because he could get a good criminal education there.

FBI agents said the seven-year nationwide investigation into the alleged spy ring was continuing. They refused to say how many people were involved.

FBI director William Sessions said the investigation was one of the most complicated of its kind ever undertaken by the bureau and the information passed on was "extremely sensitive."

Ramsay worked directly under Conrad in the 8th Infantry Division G-3 plans section in Bad Kreuznach as the assistant document custodian. The G-3 section of a division is in charge of the unit's military operations.

The affidavit charged that in December 1985, Ramsay videotaped hundreds of documents and gave them to Conrad for their eventual sale to the Czechs and Hungarians.

Conrad was arrested in August 1988. The trial judge in his case said his offence — passing secrets to Hungary and Czechoslovakia from 1975 through 1985 in return for \$1.2 million — "endangered the entire defence capability of the West."

It could have led to "a breakdown in the defences of the Western alliance," and to "capitulation and the use of nuclear weapons on German territory," said Ferdinand Schuth, chief judge of the court.

W. German sentenced for spying

PARIS, June 9. (AP): A West German salesman who provided two East German agents with commercially available items like dictionaries and brochures was convicted yesterday of spying for a foreign power.

A special court sentenced Klaus Tschew to four years in prison, with 18 months suspended. The seven-judge panel acquitted his mistress, Francoise Drouillaut.

During the two-day trial Tschew 51, said all he furnished to two East German agents during contacts from May 1982 to May 1983 were items available commercially, like a Franco-German dictionary of computer terms he bought in a book store and leaflets on office equipment.

He said he was paid a total of 15,000 francs (about \$2,550 at the current rate) for his services.

Tschew told the court he ended his contacts after a fourth meeting in East Berlin, when he was

taught how to develop photographs in his bathtub. He was arrested by French secret agents a few weeks later, after being denounced by his mistress' husband.

Tschew, a salesman who has lived in France since 1966, became involved with the German agents after placing an ad in a West German newspaper offering to act as a commercial representative in France. He said his own commercial ventures, like selling Greek carpets, had been unsuccessful.

France faces British satire

Row over beef ban

LONDON, June 9. (AP): A nine-day ban on British beef imports because of concerns about "mad cow disease" gave Britain the perfect excuse for a bit of "French bashing," the popular pastime of disparaging their allies across the Channel.

"The perfidious French," wrote columnist Michael Trend in the conservative Daily Telegraph, "are up to their old tricks again in attacking le rosbif (roast beef) of old England."

He added: "Should we, though, really expect any better behaviour from a country that has been our oldest enemy and whose every gesture reveals its chronic inferiority complex towards all things English?"

The sensational Sun tabloid put it less elegantly editorialising that the "selfish frogs" ought to get lost. "Frog" is a derogatory word referring to the French taste for frogs' legs.

Members of Parliament got into the fray as well harrumphing about supposedly inferior French cheeses and apples.

David Blake, a columnist for the Sunday Correspondent, said "froggy-bashing" was "a sport as loved in old England as roast beef itself."

The latest blast of animosity — which comes amid a series of 50th anniversary celebrations of the British-French alliance in World War II — erupted May 30.

The French government decided then that British beef was unsafe because of bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE, known as "mad cow disease."

The degenerative nervous disorder has killed more than 13,000 British cattle, plus a few in Ireland. Of Britain's 150,000 herds, some 7,500 have reported cases of BSE.

It is not known whether humans can be infected by eating meat. British veterinary experts have said the risk is minimal.

West Germany and Italy joined the French ban on British beef — along with France — later lifted it.

Exports of British "bone-in" beef will have to be certified for two years as coming from herds free of BSE cases and there are certain limits on live cattle exports. There are no restrictions on off-the-bone meat.

Britain claimed the bans were illegal under the European Economic Community's free trade laws and it accused its partners of using the disease as an excuse for protecting their own farmers.

Britain exported more than £300 million (\$500 million) worth of beef to other EEC countries last year, with £160 million (\$270 million) worth going to France, Britain's largest foreign beef market.

French press coverage of the dispute has been straight forward and hasn't presented it as a British-French spat.

But it's not the first food fight between Britain and France which have tussled over sheep and pigs in the past. When French farmers blocked imports of British lamb a few years ago, the Sun declared, "hop off you frogs."

British ambivalence toward the French manifests itself in other areas, such as the rail tunnel being dug by an Anglo-French consortium under the English Channel.

Some Britons oppose the link because they fear it will allow rabid rats to scurry over from France — or enable the French to invade England.

Toward the columnist, succumbed to the temptation of listing the British war victories over the French over the centuries.

"As for the French invasion of England by the William the Conqueror and his troops in 1066 well these Norman French were not 'seriously French,'" Trend said.

GDR ex-spies defect to KGB

Call for East-West meet

MUNICH, June 9. (AP): East Germany's legendary former spy chief Markus Wolf was quoted yesterday as saying he could not rule out the possibility that some former agents are now working for the Soviet KGB.

However, in an interview with the Munich-based Sueddeutsche Zeitung, Wolf said he thought any such defections were individual cases, rather than the result of wholesale recruitment.

Wolf called for a meeting of officials from East Berlin and Bonn to try to resolve the problem of inner-German espionage. He predicted the longer it takes to resolve the question of how a united Germany deals with former communist spies, the greater the danger that even more East German agents would defect to other spy networks.

Wolf recently returned to East Berlin from Moscow, where he said he went to finish work on a book. However, West German counter-espionage officials alleged he was meeting with the KGB to turn over East Germany's spy network in West Germany.

The 67-year-old Wolf retired in 1987 as head of foreign intelligence in communist East Germany's security ministry, where he gained a reputation as one of the most skilled

intelligence chiefs in the East bloc.

There is an arrest warrant for him in West Germany, but Wolf is protected as long as East Germany and West Germany are separate countries. West German officials have not yet decided how they will handle East German spies after unification.

Guenter Beckstein, a top official in the Bavarian interior ministry, was quoted by the Munich Abendzeitung newspaper as saying that East Germany should hand Wolf over to West Germany for prosecution.

Beckstein likened Wolf's case to that of suspected terrorist Susanne Albrecht who was captured by East German authorities in East Berlin on Wednesday, and is expected to be turned over to West Germany next week.

In the West German capital of Bonn, Interior Ministry spokesman Roland Bachmeier said a meeting of the two German interior ministers in April provided the information on that led to Albrecht's capture.

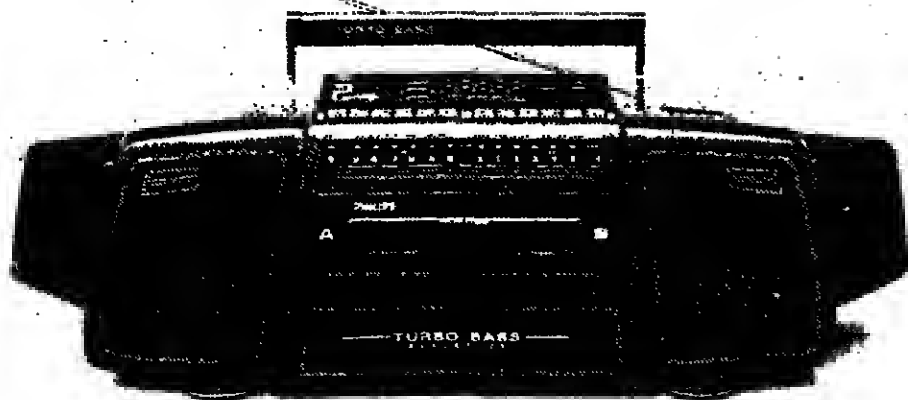
East Germany said it is investigating pensions and other benefits being drawn by former members of the notorious secret police of the old communist regime.

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TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.

PHILIPS

S. Africa formally eases emergency: 2 killed in Natal clashes

JOHANNESBURG, June 9, (Reuters): South Africa formally abandoned a four-year-old nation-wide state of emergency today, but police reported two deaths in the troubled Natal province where special security powers are being retained.

The emergency in the country's three other provinces ended at midnight yesterday, as promised by President F.W. de Klerk on Thursday.

Britain, France, the United States and the United Nations have praised the decision to ease the emergency, the main stumbling block

to talks between the government and the African National Congress on a political settlement.

But Nelson Mandela's ANC said it does not go far enough and the militant black Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) dismissed the relaxation as a "non-event".

"The so-called lifting of the state of emergency will never solve the problem of the oppressed African masses, particularly as it leaves the pillars of apartheid intact," it said in a statement.

Police authorities said today in their daily

report on unrest that a black man was shot and killed and his body burned when other blacks attacked his house at Umgobabo, 20 miles (30 km) south of the Indian Ocean port Durban.

At Imfoni, in the same area, the body of a black man was found after he had apparently been stoned to death.

A four-year-old boy was slightly injured in crossfire after a policeman attempted to arrest three blacks outside Durban. Police reported a handful of incidents in the Transvaal, but none of them fatal.

More than 1,000 people have died this year in endemic feuding between black people in Natal, originally triggered by political rivalry between supporters of Mangosuthu Buthe's Zulu-based, conservative Inkatha Movement and the leftist ANC.

But local human rights monitors say the fighting has entered a cycle of uncontrollable conflict, revenge attacks and banditry which often has little to do with politics.

De Klerk said on Thursday an additional one billion rand (\$385 million) would be provided to security forces patrolling Natal.

But the new emergency rules applying there from today are milder than the full emergency powers imposed country-wide by former president P.W. Botha in June 1986 to crush a black uprising.

A UN envoy on a fact-finding mission to South Africa rejected the charge that he was interfering in the country's affairs.

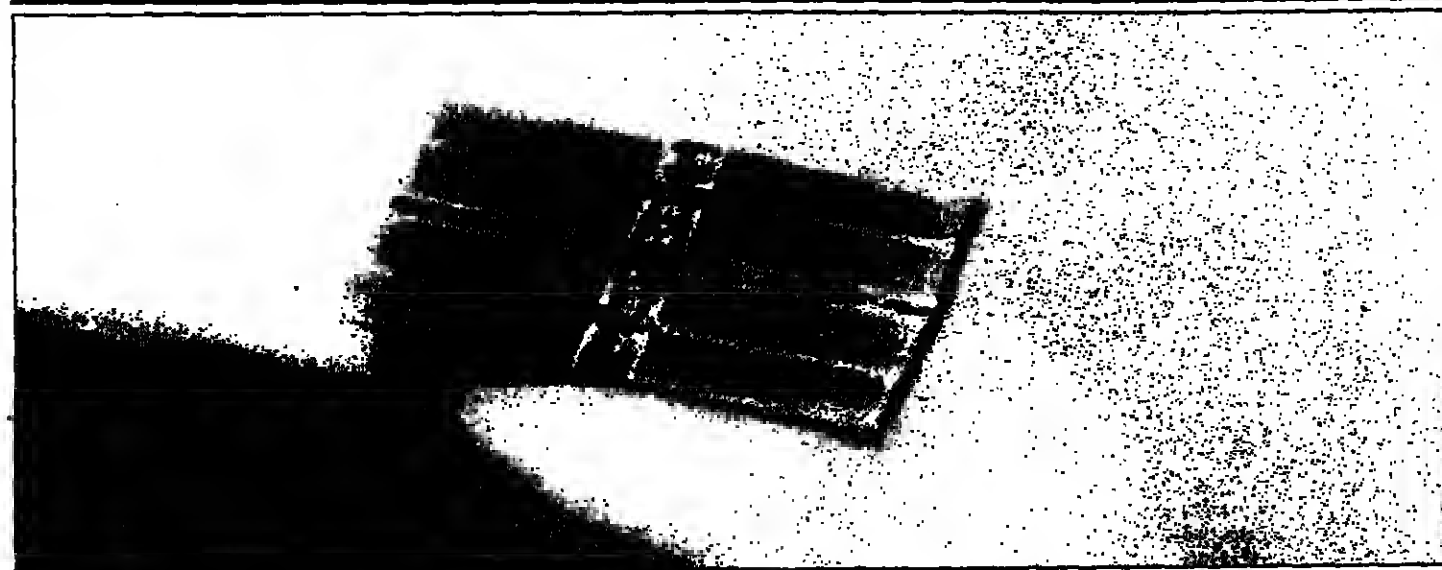
"The question of apartheid is an international issue, the question of negotiations is very much a national issue," UN under-secretary Gen. Abdul Rahim Fahran said today after the six-person team he leads

arrived at Cape Town's D.F. Malan airport. The UN team will spend 11 days in South Africa.

South African Foreign Minister P.W. Botha warned in a letter this week that the United Nations should not interfere in South Africa's affairs.

Fahran said he could not comment as he had not seen Botha's letter to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

But he denied that the mission's presence in South Africa would "internationalise" a South African issue.



Hitachi's 64-megabit chip

Japanese electronics maker Hitachi Ltd. said Friday it has developed a 64-megabit dynamic random access memory chip which can operate on a 1.5 volt dry battery for the first time in the world.

The Tokyo-based company said a prototype chip is capable of storing data equivalent to 256 newspaper pages or one of sound recorded on a compact disc.

The development made the company in the forefront in the race for the manufacture of the next-generation large capacity memory chip.

Two other Japanese computer companies, Fujitsu Ltd. and NEC Corp., have announced the development of key technologies for production of

4-megabit diams. Demand for larger-capacity memory chips is growing, and diams chips now are available in four-megabit capacity, which can hold data equivalent to about 16 newspaper pages.

Toshiba Corp., one of Japan's top semiconductor makers, has announced plans to start mass production of four-megabit chips toward the end of this year.

Hitachi said its 64 megabit chip integrates about 140 million electronic units into a chip, 0.38 inches by 0.8 inches (9.74 x 20.28 mm) or 3.1 square inches (196 square mm).

The chip's access time is 50 nanoseconds, and its electricity consumption is 44 milli-watt, the company said.

A nano second equals to one billionth of a second.

The new chip can operate on 1.5 volts of electricity, compared with 5.0 volts needed for diams currently in use, making it possible for the chip to be used in high technology products such as high-definition televisions, ultra-compact tape recorders and electronic still cameras, the company said.

The company said it plans to begin commercial production of the new chip in 1995. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mandela hopes Swiss will apply sanctions

Reports of illness dismissed

GENEVA, June 9, (Reuters): Nelson Mandela said today he saw encouraging signs that Switzerland would join the rest of the world and apply sanctions against South Africa.

The black nationalist leader told a meeting of Swiss anti-apartheid groups he had expressed concern to Swiss Foreign Minister Rene Felber at a meeting in Bern yesterday that Switzerland was the world's odd man out in failing to isolate Pretoria's white-ruled government.

"We went away encouraged, with a view that a new perception has taken place as far as the Swiss government is concerned," he said.

Mandela, who was released in February after 27 years in jail, is on a report last September said Swiss banks had lent \$3.2 billion to South Africa since 1986.

Switzerland also imports a large share of South Africa's gold and diamond production.

Mandela, who leaves Geneva on Monday morning for Bonn on the third leg of the European part of his gruelling six-week tour, met Cornelio Sommaruga, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), on Saturday.

He also had talks with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Thorvald Stoltenberg, on that date of 20,000 black South Africans who are waiting in neighbouring countries for signs they can return home.

"The UNHCR would obviously play a part in their eventual repatriation," Stoltenberg said after the meeting.

The 71-year-old Mandela, who underwent surgery earlier this month and had to cancel an appointment with the ICRC because of fatigue on Friday, dismissed reports abroad that he was ill.

"They show how propaganda can create a world different from the real world," he told the anti-apartheid movements at the headquarters of the World Council of Churches, a grouping of some 300 churches representing 400 million non-Catholic Christians.

Meanwhile, Mandela dismissed reports of illness today as "propaganda".

Talking with reporters, he protested mildly against some South African media reports that he was ill and was cancelling most of his scheduled engagements.

"You are witnesses that this might not be correct," he said.

"It is strange how propaganda can create a world which is absolutely divorced from reality."

In New York, Mayor David Dinkins says any protests by Jewish groups of Mandela's visit to the city would be an affront to the black community, a report said.

Mandela recently embraced Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat publicly and has compared the struggle of Palestinians to that of black South Africans.

13-nation tour aimed at persuading world leaders to keep up economic pressure against South Africa until apartheid is abolished.

Thabo Mbeki, the African National Congress (ANC) foreign affairs spokesman who is with Mandela, declined to specify what sanctions Switzerland could apply.

"It's up to the Swiss government to answer that question. I cannot predict what it will do but we are hopeful it will happen," he told a news conference.

Switzerland has never applied formal economic sanctions and a UN

Superfast data network US to research

WASHINGTON, June 9, (AP): The US National Science Foundation said yesterday it would back a major research effort aimed at developing computer data exchange networks that could work 20 to 700 times faster than today's best.

The foundation and the US Defence Department's research arm, the defence advanced research projects agency will spend \$15 million over the next three years to develop five experimental mini-networks that can transfer data at 1 billion bits — one "gigabit" — per second.

Such a speed would enable 70 fat novels of 300,000 words each to be transmitted every second.

Today's fibre optic cables can carry data that fast from point to point; it is the switches and data-handling routines for a long-distance network that must be developed, and these are only now beginning to emerge from the laboratory.

Collaborators — including government agencies, universities, computer companies and communications firms — are expected to contribute several times as much money as the National Science Foundation, the NSF said.

"We don't even know yet that such a network can be developed and it may take until the next century to build one," said Alan Levitt, a spokesman for the foundation.

One of the experiments if all goes well, will enable neurosurgeons at the University of North Carolina to simulate an operation using Cat-scan images of a patient's brain called up from a distant computer, before they operate on the actual patient.

"The surgeons will be able to say, 'let's see what happens when we peel back this layer of tissue,' or 'put that one back and let's peel back this layer,'" said Charles Brownstein acting assistant director for computer and information sciences at the foundation.

Liberia retains American lobbyist

WASHINGTON, June 9, (AP): President Samuel Doe of Liberia, his government under siege by rebels, has retained a lobbyist for \$800,000 to represent his interests in the United States.

Doe signed with Van Kloberg and Associates starting June 1, as fierce fighting with the rebels sent a flotilla of US navy ships to evacuate thousands of Americans, their dependents and other foreigners from Liberia.

Hundreds of Americans were also being evacuated by chartered planes.

The lobbyist's name, Edward van Kloberg, flew to Monrovia a week ago to finalise the deal, said a spokesman. Documents filed with the Justice Department indicated a 19-month contract worth \$800,000.

"Doe doesn't need public relations right now obviously," said Mike Hogan, a spokesman for the lobbyist. But Liberia's embassy in Washington has been shut down since the fighting intensified in recent weeks, and Doe needed someone to represent him here, Hogan said.

Doe has been widely accused of mismanaging the economy, and his troubles have been compounded in recent months by mass desertions from his army and by tribal divisions.

The effort to topple Doe a former army sergeant who seized power 10 years ago in a bloody coup began Dec 24 when a band of rebels infiltrated from neighbouring Ivory Coast. The insurgents, some of them trained in Libya, are led by a former high-ranking Liberian official, Charles Taylor.

The Liberian government said yesterday it was willing to negotiate a peace settlement with rebels but Doe refused to talk directly with rebel leader.

US officials have urged Doe to negotiate with Taylor, but at the same time they have also been quietly asking several African governments whether they would agree to grant Doe asylum.

Hogan said his firm's attempts to start a dialogue with a representative of Charles Taylor in New York have not been successful so far. The State Department, too, has been trying to bring the sides to an accommodation.

Doe's brother has been living here for more than a year and he too, has been representing Liberia in discussions with the State Department and other officials, Hogan said.

"Without US-supported mediation, Liberia appears destined to sink even deeper into ethnic turmoil resulting in thousands more deaths," said a press release by Van Kloberg's office yesterday.

The release also noted that Taylor had escaped in 1985 from a US jail where he was waiting to be extradited to Liberia on charges of embezzling \$1 million. It reiterated Doe's promise of last week — made to appease the advancing rebel troops — that he would hold free elections next year and would not run.

Seoul plans formal talks with Moscow

SEOUL, June 9, (Agencies): Foreign Minister Choi Ho-Jung said today that South Korea plans to start "as soon as possible" government-level negotiations to normalise relations with the Soviet Union.

Choi said South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to hold high-level government talks on normalising relations when they met in San Francisco early this week.

"We plan to start high-level normalisation talks with the Soviet Union as soon as possible as agreed on between the leaders of the two countries in San Francisco," Choi told reporters.

Choi said Roh and Gorbachev agreed in principle to normalise the relations of their nations but did not decide when.

The minister said he would not lead the South Korean negotiating team. Earlier reports said Choi may visit Moscow next month to hold talks with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze.

South Korea has no diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union a longtime ally of Seoul's enemy, communist North Korea, but the two countries have greatly expanded economic and other unofficial contacts in recent years.

Seoul and Moscow exchanged trade offices and started limited consular service last year. Their two-way trade doubled to \$600 million last year from 1988 and is expected to hit \$1 billion this year.

The Supreme Court rejected appeals and confirmed seven-year prison terms Friday for disgraced pastor Moon Ik-Hwan and his companion Yu Won-Ho, who travelled to North Korea last year without government authorisation.



Students protest

South Korean police lead away a demonstrator during an anti-government demonstration in Seoul, June 8. More than 1,000 students and workers shouted 'down with ruling Democratic Liberal Party' and 'down with President Roh Tae-Woo' during the demonstration. (Reuters wirephoto)

Japan yet to confirm 'island deal'

TOKYO, June 9, (Kuna): Japan is trying to obtain a confirmation on a press report that said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has told a senior American official that he plans to strike a deal regarding the disputed islands with Japan.

This was announced today by an official Japanese spokesman on the eve of the arrival of Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Evgeny Rogachev to Tokyo to brief the Japanese government on outcome of the recent Soviet-American summit.

The spokesman said the Japanese Embassy in Washington is trying to get confirmation on the report, which was published by a Japanese newspaper, that said Gorbachev's deal includes returning the northern islands to Japan in return for Japanese financial assistance and Japanese investment in Siberia and other places.



Mandela and wife Winnie give the clenched fist salute as they sing the hymn of the African National Congress during their appearance in Geneva, June 8. (Reuters wirephoto)

Made possible by De Klerk reforms

Makeba returning home

JOHANNESBURG, June 9, (Reuters): Black musician Miriam Makeba, dubbed "Mama Africa" by her fans, returns home to South Africa tomorrow to the adulation of millions who associate her music with black resistance to white domination.

Makeba, the first black South African singer to gain international fame, said she still could not believe she had been permitted to come home after 31 years in exile.

"I am feeling numb. I will believe it when I am sitting on the plane," she told Reuters in a telephone interview in Brussels where she now lives.

Makeba's visit was made possible by President F.W. de Klerk's reforms which began in February, when he lifted bans on black opposition organisations and said exiles would be allowed to return as a prelude to talks with black on ending apartheid.

Although Makeba said the visit would be a private pilgrimage to visit her mother's grave and to meet relatives, local musicians are planning to stage a welcoming concert.

Some of Makeba's records, which first took the tight harmonies and catchy melodies of black South African music to an international audience, have slowly returned to shops in her own country after

being banned for almost two decades. She is probably best known for songs which illustrated the distinctive clicking sounds of her native Xhosa language.

State-owned South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), which once saw her as a dangerous subversive and banned all of her songs, even non-political ones, has started playing them again.

The SABC imposed a blanket ban on her music in 1975 when she first appeared at the United Nations General Assembly to speak out against apartheid, South Africa's policy of racial segregation.

Smugglers and underground distributors have illegally kept her supporters supplied with her albums during her exile.

Makeba, now 58, left South Africa in 1959 on a tour of the United States with the black musical "King Kong". She never returned.

She was spotted by Jamaican-born musician Harry Belafonte, who helped her establish herself internationally.

Makeba performed extensively in Africa and became deeply involved in the black struggle for civil rights in the United States. She has had five husbands, including black radical Stokely Carmichael.

Scandal hits Tibetan movement

Dalai Lama finds it difficult to retire

DHARMSALA, India, June 9, (AP): While other world leaders fight to stay in power, and some try to fend off reform, the head of the world's 6 million Tibetans has the opposite problem.

The Dalai Lama's people are uncomfortable with democracy and do not want him to retire as their political leader.

But then, most other political figures aren't considered living gods.

"I am insisting on stepping down," the Dalai Lama said in an interview. "It is of greatest urgency that democracy comes to us. It is the most creative way for the human spirit."

In his ornate parlour overlooking the snow-capped Himalayas, the Dalai Lama predicted communism soon will fall in China and his followers will return to their homeland within 10 years.

Tibetans believe their mountainous region, with its unique culture, should be an independent

nation. China claims Tibet has been part of its territory since the 13th century.

To prepare for their return, the Dalai Lama said, Tibetans must embrace democracy and shed the idea that he is a god.

It is proving difficult. There is strong conservative opposition to the Dalai Lama's plans to democratise his government-in-exile and few, if any, Tibetans seem willing to abandon the belief that "his holiness" is divine.

"That belief has made Tibetans 'lazy,'" said the 54-year-old Buddhist leader, who won the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize. "They think I will do everything for them."

Tibetans circle his residence, pausing to clasp their hands in prayer. Elderly women, limping with age, climb steep grades to gaze at his compound, whispering, "10,000 years to his holiness."

its communist enemy in Beijing, the government of Taiwan claims Tibet is part of China and rejects Tibetan independence.

Since 1959, when the Dalai Lama fled Tibet after an abortive uprising and set up headquarters in Dharmasala, Taiwan has donated "hundreds of millions" of dollars to Tibetan groups, according to Sonam Tobgyal, spokesman for the exile government.

He said the Taiwanese agency aims to convince Tibetans to break with the government-in-exile, while Taiwan denies.

Gene J. Y. Chang, head of the

agency, said it had given much less to the Tibetans — an average of \$300,000 a year.

In an interview in Taipei, Chang acknowledged some Tibetan refugees were anti-Chinese, not merely anti-communist, but said the commission would like to improve its relations with Dharmasala.

Tobgyal said the commission had become increasingly active in recent years, financing a Tibetan-language newspaper in Calcutta, building monasteries in Nepal and granting scholarships to Tibetan students.

"The main aim of the money has been to create disharmony among

Tibetans," Tobgyal said.

He claimed Taiwan paid independence activists to return to Tibet and "stir up trouble," thus violating the Dalai Lama's policy of non-violence.

Taiwan denied the charge.

The reason for Taiwan's alleged meddling are not clear. It could seek to foment further political turmoil on the Chinese mainland by encouraging protests in Tibet, but also might be carrying favour with Beijing by trying to weaken the Tibetan movement. Taiwan recently abandoned its "no contact" policy toward the mainland.

KLM to ground pregnant crew

Cosmic radiation risk

AMSTERDAM, June 9. (AP) The Dutch national airline KLM will begin grounding pregnant stewardesses this fall because of a US report that airline crews may be exposed to harmful radiation levels, a KLM spokesman said yesterday.

The US department of transportation report warned that cosmic radiation could cause up to 1,000 additional cancer deaths per 100,000 crew members who fly long routes approximately twice a week.

That cancer rate would be in addition to the 22,000 per 100,000 population expected to die of cancer from other causes.

"We were planning on making some changes anyway, but the reports of possible dangers related to higher radiation levels made us act faster," KLM spokesman Hugo Baas told the Associated Press.

Scientists and department of transportation officials caution that the risk data is not based on any study of actual cancer cases but on math-

ematical models projecting the effects of low-level cosmic radiation.

Folkert Draaisma, a radio-biology expert at the national scientific research centre in Rijswijk, told the AP that the dot calculations use decade-old measurements.

"These measurements need to be repeated to apply to newer airplanes which fly higher," he said, adding that radiation is most dangerous between the 8th and 15th weeks of pregnancy when foetal brains are formed.

"I estimate that a stewardess who flies during her entire pregnancy will reach the unacceptable level," which he indicated was 40 per cent above the normal dose of cosmic radiation.

According to the KLM regulation, once a stewardess reports her pregnancy, she must be given the option of an alternative job on the ground or an extended paid pregnancy leave, union leader Joop Kosterman told the AP.

Strains showing in IRA movement

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, June 9. (AP) Gerry Adams, the staunchest public defender of the Irish Republican Army, said yesterday that the killing of a reserve police officer and his wife was "totally wrong."

"You don't expect me to say that it was a good operation when it patently was not," said Adams, the president of Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing.

Last week, Adams criticised the mistaken killing of two Australian tourists in the Dutch town of Roermond on May 27 as "inexcusable and unjustifiable."

However, Adams also told reporters in London this week that he regards the IRA as "freedom fighters."

Within two weeks, the IRA has killed six people: Attorney Stephen Melrose and Nicholas Spanos in Roermond; British Army Pvt. William Robert Davies, 19, on June 1 in Lichfield; British Army Maj. Michael John Dillon-Lee, 34, in Dortmund, West Germany; and James Selson, 65, and Ellen Selson, 66, in Belfast.

The Selsons were killed by a bomb planted on their car.

"What happened to those two old people was totally wrong," Adams said on Thursday.

Meeting with journalists yesterday, Adams said it was not IRA policy to attack retired police officers.

"That's not a principle they have stuck to religiously by any means," Robin Wilson, editor of Fortnight, a Belfast-based political journal, said in an interview.

The IRA says it aims to end British rule in Northern Ireland and unite the mostly Protestant province with the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Republic of Ireland.

Sinn Fein criticism of IRA operations has been accepted as an unavoidable tension within a movement that aspires to take power "with a ballot paper in this hand, and an armalite in this hand," as Sinn Fein's Danny Morrison put it in 1981.

In January 1989, Adams declared that murders of civilians hurt the republican movement and he urged the guerrillas to be "careful, and careful again."

Two months later, an IRA unit shot and killed three civilians in Coagh, and the next month an IRA bomb killed a 20-year-old Roman Catholic woman in Warrenpoint.

More recent IRA "mistakes" included the killing of Heidi Hazell, 26-year-old German wife of a British soldier in September, the slaying of the 6-month-old daughter of a British soldier in Germany the following month, and the death of 16-year-old Terry Love, killed by debris from an IRA bomb while watching a parade in Londonderry in January.

Some Sinn Fein activists have blamed such operations for the decline in the party's vote in national elections from a high of 13.4 per cent in 1983 to 11.4 per cent in 1987.

Adams was in London this week to promote his latest book, "Cage Eleven," about his experiences in prison. Questions, however inevitably focused on the killings in Roermond, Lichfield and Dortmund.

"I have been very critical of the IRA. I have made my criticisms known in a principled way where it matters, in republican circles as well as the mass media," Adams said.



Kohl (left) looks on as Bush answers a question on American resolve on a unified Germany remaining in NATO. (Reuters wirephoto)

Future of Germany

Bush and Kohl in unification talks

WASHINGTON, June 9. (Agencies) President George Bush met yesterday with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl after saying the future of Germany is one of the issues that give him and Mikhail S. Gorbachev differing views on whether the cold war is over.

Bush, returning to the White House from a two-day political trip, talked with Kohl over dinner before a late-night helicopter flight to Camp David, the presidential retreat in the mountains outside Washington. It was the second meeting in three weeks between the two leaders.

The West German chancellor, in the United States on a private visit, delivered the commencement address on Thursday at Harvard University.

The future of Germany has become a major dispute between Moscow and Washington. Over objections from the Soviet President, Bush insists that a unified Germany should belong to the US-led NATO alliance.

Bush told political fund-raising audiences in the states of Nebraska and Iowa that the German issues will not be resolved easily or quickly.

"We must see that German reunification adheres to the wishes of the German people, while respecting the views of

other nations," Bush told a luncheon for Hal Daub, a candidate for the US Senate from Bush's Republican Party.

"Serious differences still remain," he said.

Earlier, at a fund-raising speech in Des Moines, Iowa, Bush said that agreements struck at the summit, "we hope represent the beginning of the end of the cold war."

Gorbachev has said repeatedly that the cold war is already over.

Asked by reporters aboard Air Force one, the presidential airplane, on the way here from Iowa whether he and Gorbachev had different views on this subject, Bush said, "I don't know. We've got a difference of semantics, don't we."

"We've got to wait and see how we can resolve all these problems out here. There are plenty of them around."

However, he added, "I felt the summit moved in the right direction." Bush said that Secretary of State James A. Baker III, returning to Washington for the meeting with Kohl, was bringing with him "a certain degree of optimism" from his talks in Europe on the German issue with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze.



Demonstration

Anti-government demonstrators kneeling in front of armed soldiers guarding the parliament building in Bucharest yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Thatcher backs Refuseniks

British leader criticises Israel for settlement, flies to Kiev

KIEV, Soviet Union, June 9. (Agencies) British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher expressed support to a group of six Soviet "Refuseniks" today before flying from Moscow to the scenic Ukrainian capital of Kiev.

Thatcher, who has criticised Israel for settling emigrant Soviet Jews in its occupied territories, told the six Jewish activists that Britain was concerned that human rights problems such as an official ban on emigration still existed five years after reformist President Mikhail Gorbachev came to power.

"We shall continue to support you and raise your cases," a British official said she told

the group during 45-minute talks over breakfast.

The British leader, an outspoken supporter of the beleaguered Soviet President, held lengthy talks with Gorbachev in Moscow on Friday.

One of the six, Natasha Stonov, was recently granted permission to leave the country with her husband later this year after 11 years of refusals.

The others, Mark Kotlyar, Leonid Belopolsky, Vladimir Isyikin, Stanislav Bryantsev and Evgeny Skrynnik, have all been denied permission to emigrate on security or other grounds.

The officials said that one of the group told Thatcher: "In the Soviet Union, security can mean anything and everything."

During her stay in Kiev, on the third day of a four-day visit to the Soviet Union, Thatcher visited the Babi Yar monument to 100,000 mainly Jewish citizens shot by occupying German forces during World War Two.

In a last-minute addition to her programme, Thatcher was scheduled to hold a 30-minute meeting later today with around 70 of the 450 deputies to the Ukraine Supreme Soviet (Parliament) at their request.

She began her day in the Ukrainian capital, its boulevard lush and green in contrast to the drabness of Moscow, by visiting a month-long British trade fair and exhibition of the "British way of life."

Greeted by the drums and bagpipes of the hand of the royal Scots dragon guards, Thatcher toured a replica of a British high street and visited a two-storey semi-detached house meant to depict the home life of an average family in central England.

Gazing into the bedroom of a typical teenager, cluttered with clothes, magazines and music tapes, she remarked, "Every mother's despair. You can't keep it tidy."

But she swept past a reminder of the political problems waiting her return in London on Sunday evening: The real newspapers in a mock shop were from March 91 when the ruling Conservative (Tory) Party was in crisis over her leadership.

In plain view for Soviet visitors to the exhibition were such headlines as "Thatcher bid to calm party on leadership" and "Thatcher flights to head off Tory party civil war."

Thatcher will spend a busy day in the southern republic of Armenia on Sunday before flying home.

She will tour areas devastated by an earthquake which struck the region 18 months ago and open a school since donated and built by Britain in the border town of Leninakan, where 15,000 people died.

Gorbachev yesterday reiterated warnings that he will curb the emigration of Soviet Jews unless they stop settling in occupied territories.

"This is a very serious matter," Gorbachev said, urging Israel to heed his warnings against settlement that he made during last week's superpower summit in Washington.

"I hope that Israel will listen and then ... this process of emigration can go on normally and we won't be forced to introduce any corrections," Gorbachev said.

"If the situation became such that we have to react, we probably will have to apply our sovereign rights, our competence and act," he said.

Thatcher, answering an Arab journalist, said the settlement of Soviet Jewish emigrants on the West Bank was wrong. She said that Israel, not Gorbachev, was to blame.

Civic Forum leads in poll

PRAGUE, June 9. (Reuters) The Civic Forum movement, which spearheaded the overthrow of communist rule seven months ago, was a landslide victory in Czechoslovakia's general election today, according to an officially-sanctioned exit poll.

The poll, published 30 minutes after voting ended in the country's first free elections in four decades, gave Civic Forum and its Slovak sister organisation Public Against Violence almost 50 per cent of the total vote for the two chambers of parliament.

The three-party Christian Democratic Union showed second with 15 per cent, with the communists third on 10 per cent.

The poll was carried out among 10,400 people in 261 polling stations.

The poll was conducted for Czechoslovak television by the West German Infas Institute.

The overwhelming victory could give Civic Forum and Public Against Violence a majority of up to two-thirds in the 300-seat new parliament.

Under a complicated system of proportional representation, parties receiving less than five per cent of the vote in either the Czech or Slovak republics, the two constituent parts of Czechoslovakia, will not be represented in the federal assembly.

Early indications were that almost all the 19 other parties which stood in the election risked falling under the five per cent threshold.

Television broadcast the results of the Infas poll for one chamber of the federal assembly, the House of the People. It gave Civic Forum 52 per cent, the Christian Democrats 12 and the Communist Party 10.

Infas figures for the other chamber, the House of Nations, showed Civic Forum winning an average of 46 per cent between the Czech lands and Slovakia.

The CDU figure was computed at 18.5 per cent and the communists at 10.5 per cent in the House of Nations. Both chambers have equal weight in the federal assembly.

Official results are expected tomorrow.

No final turnout figure was immediately available, but reports from around the country indicated heavy and enthusiastic polling in Czechoslovakia's first free elections since 1946.

More than 60 per cent of eligible voters cast their ballots on the first day, the central electoral commission said, and the regional commission in Plzen, West Bohemia, reported a turnout of 90 per cent two hours before the polls closed.

The central commission also said there had been no irregularities reported before voting ended. The Interior Ministry confirmed there had been no security problems at the 20,000 polling stations.



Thatcher in Moscow

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher (right) visits the Soviet Ministry of Defence with Defence Minister Marshal Dimitri Yazov (left) on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)

I can overcome: Gorby

Yeltsin slams state television

LONDON, June 9. (Reuters) Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said in a British television interview yesterday he believed he could overcome rival Boris Yeltsin's challenges to his policies.

"These are things which I do not refer to as insurmountable obstacles," he told British Broadcasting Corporation in Moscow, where Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is on a four-day visit.

Gorbachev appeared to strike a conciliatory note in the interview, conducted before the Russian Parliament under Yeltsin's leadership passed an article declaring its constitution took precedence over Soviet law.

"There is no place for personal emotions here,"

Gorbachev said, adding that his attitude towards the newly-elected president of the Russian Federation would be determined by Yeltsin's future actions.

"What he said in his last days before the election is one thing," Gorbachev said. "How he is going to act in the future, that's different."

Meanwhile, Yeltsin summoned the head of Soviet state broadcasting to Parliament today to explain why his pre-recorded speech had not been broadcast yesterday as scheduled.

State broadcasting head Mikhail Nenashin told Parliament Yeltsin's speech had been postponed to accommodate the live broadcast of a news conference with Gorbachev and Thatcher, the official Tass reported.

The Russian Congress of People's Deputies, approved a draft of the proclamation entitled "declaration of sovereignty" by a 544-271 vote. Tass reported.

He spoke in Moscow to the Hungarian news agency MTI, monitored in Budapest, after a Warsaw Pact summit on Thursday and meetings with Soviet and Warsaw Pact military officials yesterday.

Fur's statement marked the first time Hungary had publicly set a date on leaving the pact which has been hit by the collapse of old-style communism in the Soviet Union's Eastern European allies.

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Demos as Romania House opens

BUCHAREST, June 9. (Reuters) Romania's new two-chamber Parliament met for the first time today, launching an era of democratic politics after free elections last month ended over four decades of communist rule.

About 300 anti-communist demonstrators shouted slogans outside the ornate Parliament building where the 396-member lower house, the Assembly of Deputies, gathered.

The protesters, kept some 200

metres (yards) from Parliament by lines of troops and police, shouted "down with communism" and "down with Iliescu".

They accuse Iliescu, who was in his office in the Parliament building during the session, of having communist affiliations because he was once a senior Communist Party official under ousted dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Iliescu's National Salvation Front dominates the new assembly, which has 387 elected members and nine appointed members from minority communities.

Chairing the largely procedural session, oldest member Rene Polciart, 80, said it was an historic moment.

"I have the honour of presiding over the opening session of our first parliament after about 50 years of darkness during which Romanians could do nothing else but survive," he said.

The forecast gave the third main party, the Agrarian Union, between 14 and 18 per cent.

The final days of the campaign have been marked by allegations from the UDF that Socialist activists have intimidated voters and harassed opposition supporters in the provinces.

Bulgarians pause for breath amid prediction of socialists to lead in elections

SOFIA, June 9. (Reuters) Bulgarians paused for breath today before their first free elections in 40 years.

The red and blue flags of the Socialist Party, formerly the communists, and their main rivals the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) fluttered from apartment balconies in Sofia's suburbs.

But there was none of the euphoria which swept the capital on Thursday night when several hundred thousand UDF supporters packed the six-lane Lenin boulevard for a pre-election rally.

Instead, shoppers returned to the long queues

which are a daily necessity to cope with food shortages, a legacy of communist central planning.

Thursday's rally, the biggest show of support for the dissident-led UDF, dwarfed a counter demonstration by the socialists which attracted 100,000, mostly elderly supporters.

"I think everyone is a bit tired, but most people made up their minds how they would vote some time ago," one Sofia resident commented.

"But I think there can be little doubt that Sofia belongs to the UDF."

The UDF, formed seven months ago after veteran

hardline leader Todor Zhivkov was removed, has won strong support in larger towns.

But in contrast to Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland, the former communists still have strong support, particularly in rural areas.

Bulgaria is the last of the East European countries to vote after throwing out hardline communist regimes. In Sunday's poll, followed by a second round a week later, an electorate of about 6.7 million will elect a 400-member assembly which will draft a new constitution within 18 months.

So far there have been no foreign opinion polls in

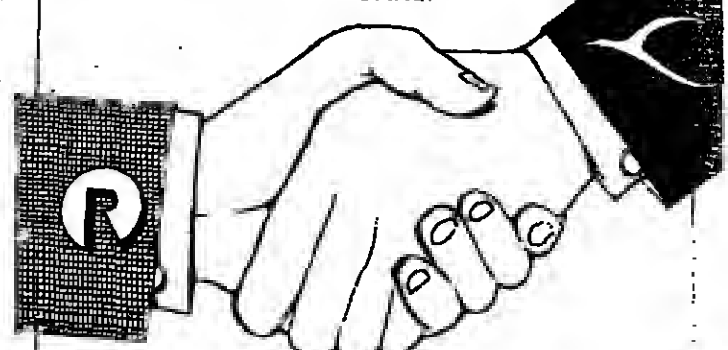
Bulgaria. But a survey of 3,000 voters by a Bulgarian research group with help from a US institute put the socialists in the lead with between 39 and 44 per cent of the vote, followed by the UDF with between 34 and 41 per cent.

The forecast gave the third main party, the Agrarian Union, between 14 and 18 per cent.

The final days of the campaign have been marked by allegations from the UDF that Socialist activists have intimidated voters and harassed opposition supporters in the provinces.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

America

New doubts on cold fusion: Three major laboratories cast additional doubts on cold fusion, saying experiments supporting the phenomenon appear to have been skewed by the presence of a radioactive isotope, the New York Times said Friday.

Dr. Kevin Wolf of Texas A and M University said his laboratory's experiment materials had included palladium metal contaminated with tritium, which confused some people because tritium is a by-product of fusion, the Times said. (AP)

Tanker blast kills two: A blast rocked a Norwegian-flagged oil tanker off the Gulf Coast early Saturday, killing at least two crew members, but there were no immediate reports of a spill, authorities said.

The US Coast Guard said the 853-foot (260-metre) Mega Borg was on fire 57 miles (91 kilometres) south of Galveston after an apparent explosion. A section of the ship was reported burning out of control, the Coast Guard said.

The fate of 36 other crew members aboard the vessel was not immediately known, said Lieut. Dave Hawes with the Coast Guard marine safety office in Galveston. (AP)

Romance for Papa's ex-wife: The retired president of the University of Oregon, who has been linked to the former wife of one-time Greek prime minister Andreas Papandreu, says he is moving to Greece for good.

"The truth of the matter is that Athens has something that Eugene doesn't have," said Paul Olum. "And I don't mean the Acropolis."

He said he will leave Oregon by the end of the month.

Close friends have guessed for months that Olum, 71, was becoming romantically involved with Margaret Papandreu, the Oregonian newspaper reported Monday. (AP)

Michael Jackson goes home: Michael Jackson was released from a hospital after chest pains he suffered were traced to bruised ribs.

Jackson was sent home Thursday night, said a nursing supervisor at St. John's hospital and health centre.

The 31-year-old entertainer, who checked into the hospital Sunday, suffered from a condition called rib fracture inflammation of the front part of the ribs, Dr. Mark Zatzkis said in a statement released by Jackson spokesman Bob Jones.

He apparently suffered the injury during his regular Sunday one-hour solo dance session in a bedroom of his Los Angeles home.

The spokesman said Jackson would return to the hospital for additional treatment. (AP)

Rare blood transplant: Six-year-old Eric Miller who underwent a rare bone marrow transplant using umbilical cord blood from his infant brother has been discharged from hospital, doctors said on Friday.

The procedure — the first operation of its kind in the United States and only the third in the world — was pronounced a success last month by physicians at children's hospital medical centre.

But Miller of McFarland, Wisconsin, who was released on Thursday, will continue with outpatient treatment and will have to be kept in isolation because his immune system is suppressed to enable the transplant to take, the announcement said. (Reuters)

Improving Elvis: A weekend convention featuring an international lineup of Elvis Presley impersonators — about 80 altogether — includes a seminar for those who need to hush up their blue suede shoes.

"Sure, you have to look like Elvis, sound like Elvis and capture all the little idiosyncrasies," said Dave Carlson, who conducted a seminar Friday. "But I can't grab a person's leg and say, 'here, move your leg like this'."

Carlson demonstrates grabbing his own knee and moving it in a circle that threatens to tear the joint from its socket. (AP)

Gay Pride weekend: The top 30 floors of the Empire State Building will be lit with lavender lights in honour of Gay Pride weekend later this month.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance against Defamation said it has lobbied the management of the 102-story-tall building for the past six years to have the landmark building illuminated in honour of their cause.

"Everybody is going to look up that weekend (June 22-24), gay and straight, and they will see that New York City is recognizing the existence of the gay and lesbian community," said Tom Lynch, a member of GLAAD. (AP)

Europe

Researcher escapes blast: A British chemical warfare researcher narrowly escaped injury in a car bomb attack apparently carried out by extremists opposed to experiments on animals, police said on Friday.

Margaret Baskerville's car burst into flames in Winterville, near Salisbury in southern England on Wednesday but it took two days for forensic tests to determine it was set ablaze by a bomb.

Baskerville, 49, is a veterinary surgeon at the government chemical defence establishment at Porton Down, where animals are exposed to battlefield poisons. (Reuters)

Kinnock attacks Tories: Britain's main opposition Labour leader Neil Kinnock Saturday launched a scathing attack on the "wasted 80s" of missed opportunities by the Thatcher government.

"Never has so much been taken from so many, by so few with so little to show for it," he said.

He told a meeting of UK senior trade unionists in County Durham, north east of England, that the conservatives had squandered £85 billion in oil revenues and £35 billion from selling off assets and had imposed the highest overall tax burden in history.

Kinnock added that "in 11 years the conservatives have wasted time, wasted revenues, wasted talents, and wasted people. They used power without responsibility," he maintained. (Kuna)



Prisoners from the Pankrac jail in Prague wave their ballots as they vote June 6. (Reuters wirephoto)



Yuri Karlov, the Soviet Union's first ambassador to the Vatican, speaks with Pope John Paul II after giving him his credentials at a ceremony June 7. The Vatican established official, permanent contacts March 15, ending seven decades of mutual mistrust. (Reuters wirephoto)

UK women stereotyped: Traditional images of the role of women in British society still curb women's job opportunities in London, according to a new survey cited by the UK media Thursday.

British academic Nigel Coppenhaver, who carried out the survey for the UK University association for contemporary European studies, said he found that almost twice as many women as men had to settle for manual or clerical jobs after graduating.

"Our feeling is that women's aspirations are as high as men's, but they find fewer opportunities," he said.

The survey involved 1,531 people who graduated to European studies from 16 institutions in the UK between 1977 and 1987. (Kuna)

Violinist Menuhin proposes: Violinist Sir Yehudi Menuhin has proposed an underground opera house for the elite Swiss resort of Gstaad, the president of the town council said on Friday.

Walter Von Siebenthal said Menuhin had enlisted the help of star Chinese-American architect I. M. Pei, designer of an underground concert hall in Dallas and the Glass Pyramid in the courtyard of Paris's Louvre Gallery.

Siebenthal said the Gstaad was enthusiastic about the idea but would have to find the money itself.

"A great artist like Menuhin lives in a different world," he said. "We understand that he wouldn't concern himself with construction and financing plans." (Reuters)

Vintners up in arms: French wine makers rose up in protest on Thursday against a government plan to restrict advertisements for alcoholic drinks, saying it would damage sales and France's prestige overseas.

"This proposal is scandalous," said Luc Reutenauer, president of the Cahors Wine Council in southwestern France.

He was reacting to a draft law approved by the French Government on Wednesday that would ban advertisements, except in the press, for all but the weakest alcoholic drinks.

Wine and spirits makers said the plan would jeopardise one of the country's key export industries. (Reuters)

Collided yacht sinks: An Austrian woman tourist was killed and her husband was missing after a Greek yacht collided with a ship near Athens and sank today, a Merchant Marine Ministry spokesman said.

The yacht Agneta was carrying 23 West German and Austrian tourists to the island of Serifos, southeast of Athens, when it collided with a Greek cargo vessel.

Five people were injured and would be kept in hospital overnight, said a doctor at a hospital in the mainland town of Lavrion. (Reuters)

Paris population declines: The population of Paris has fallen to 2.15 million inhabitants, the lowest since 1891, according to a new census.

The suburbs, where a majority of people who work in the French capital now live, have seen their population grow to more than 6.6 million, a reversal of the position 100 years ago when slightly more people lived in the capital than in the suburbs.

The Paris population drop, spurred by spiralling property prices, was most notable between 1962 and 1982, when 620,000 people left the city, according to the census published this week by the state-run Insee Demographics Institute. (Reuters)

Asia

Vietnam expels US teacher: Vietnam expelled a US English teacher for allegedly threatening national security and possessing secret documents, Hanoi radio and the teacher's sponsoring organisation said Friday.

Diplomats said the expulsion appeared to be part of a widening crackdown on foreigners and internal dissidents meant to prevent Eastern European-style democratisation in Vietnam.

Hanoi radio said Miriam Hershberger, a 35-

year-old English teacher at the Hanoi foreign languages school in Hanoi since July, was expelled from Vietnam Tuesday, arriving in Bangkok the same day. (UPI)

Military presence diminishes: The Chinese military presence in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa has been substantially reduced since martial law was lifted, Canada's ambassador to China said Friday after visiting the remote city.

Ambassador Earl Drake and four other Canadian diplomats were in Lhasa for a six-day visit last week. They were the third group of diplomats allowed to visit Lhasa since martial law, imposed for 14 months, was lifted on May 1.

To meetings with government officials in Lhasa, Drake asked about those arrested for demonstrating and about reports from foreign human rights groups of torture and beatings. He said he got "very defensive responses" with little information. (AP)

Linear train route chosen: A 42.8-kilometre (26.7-mile) route near Tokyo has been picked as the site for a new \$2.3-billion US test track for superfast, magnetically levitated linear motors, the Transport Ministry said Friday.

The track for the 500 kilometre-per-hour (343 mile-per-hour) system will link Sakagawa and Akiyama in Yamaguchi prefecture (state) northwest of Tokyo, ministry officials said.

The first-phase construction will start later this year from completion before the end of 1994. Following a three-year testing the railway will go into business by the end of 1997, they said. (AP)

Priest held on drug charges: A man claiming to be a priest from Brazil was charged Thursday with importing heroin into Australia, police said.

Georges Saliba, 38, of Sao Paulo, was alleged to have brought 3.5 pounds (1.6 kg) of heroin to secret lodgings of his suitcase.

Customs officers allegedly found the heroin during a check of his luggage at Sydney airport on May 23.

Saliba appeared Thursday in a white priest's collar in Sydney's central court and entered no plea. (UPI)

Indonesia to protect wildlife: Thousands of endangered animals — dead and alive — are being smuggled out of Indonesia each month but the country does not have the resources to deal with the problem, officials said Sunday in Jakarta.

Indonesia's head of conservation, Sutisna Wartaputra, was quoted by the official news agency Antara as saying that many believe the smugglers are based in neighbouring Singapore.

During the past two months, Indonesian authorities have foiled attempts to smuggle more than 2,900 iguana, crocodile and make hides, worth an estimated \$82,000, from Indonesia into Singapore. (UPI)

Niger challenges Amnesty: The Niger government disputed yesterday an Amnesty International report saying security forces had killed at least 60 Tuareg nomads since April and tortured hundreds more.

A government statement said 30 Tuaregs had been killed when they attacked an army camp, seeking arms for a guerrilla campaign. It denied an Amnesty claim hundreds were being detained and tortured.

Some of the attackers, who had killed seven people, including four civilians and three soldiers, had been captured.

The statement also said an Amnesty delegation could come anytime to investigate the human rights situation in the Sahelian country. (AP)

Rights leader picked up: Security agents took a leading human rights activist in for questioning yesterday, a day after he criticised a decree granting immunity from prosecution to Nigeria's military rulers.

A government statement said 30 Tuaregs had been killed when they attacked an army camp, seeking arms for a guerrilla campaign. It denied an Amnesty claim hundreds were being detained and tortured.

Security agents arrived at the home of Olas Agbokoba, president of the Nigeria civil liberties organisation, carrying a letter saying military intelligence wanted him for questioning.

Sources close to Agbokoba said the military government had been urging him to drop a lawsuit challenging the secret court martial of 10 officers accused of plotting a bloody but abortive coup April 22. (AP)

Aid men wounded in ambush: Three Ugandans working for Doctors Without Borders were injured by gunfire when their vehicles were ambushed, the Paris-based relief organisation said yesterday.

The ambush took place on the road to relief vehicles en route Monday near the town of Gulu in northwest Uganda.

Two of the Ugandans were seriously hurt, while a fourth person in the group, a Swiss paramedic, was not injured, the agency said.

The agency said there was no indication who was responsible. (AP)

Ethiopian child dies every minute: One child dies every minute in Ethiopia of malnutrition or preventable disease, UNICEF officials told a news conference.

In Mozambique, they said, one child in three died before reaching the age of five.

Officials of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said that war, drought and donor fatigue combined to produce such grim statistics in parts of Africa.

In Ethiopia, Mozambique and Sudan, where UNICEF is particularly active, fighting between governments and guerrilla movements has made relief assistance difficult and sometimes impossible. (Reuters)

Hunter survives elephant charge: A 43-year-old hunter was saved by surgery after an elephant attacked him in an Equatorial forest, ripping his chest open and exposing his intestines that quickly became infested with maggots for three days before help arrived.

L'Union newspaper said yesterday.

Henry Mitsutu and his wife May 17 walked 30 km (20 miles) into the central forest of Ndjole in search of wild game, said the L'Union newspaper.

The Gabonese hunter bagged numerous animals and his wife began starting for home with the provisions when she heard a terrified cry from her husband. (AP)

Saudis emerge as opponents

Action on greenhouse effect

GENEVA, June 9, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, has emerged as a formidable opponent of early action to arrest the greenhouse effect, environmentalists say.

The Saudis, who would stand to lose in the short term if the world cut oil consumption to try to slow global warming, raised repeated objections at UN negotiations in Geneva this week on the greenhouse effect, the ecologists said.

"They are raising objections at every single point," said one British environmentalist observing a working group meeting, which was asked to recommend a plan of action to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The environmentalists said Saudi Arabia, which in previous meetings had not put up obstacles, had effectively formed an unlikely alliance with the United States, China and the Soviet Union in resisting early reduction goals for greenhouse gases.

"Just when the science on global warming and its implications have become firmer, the political resolve to take appropriate action has weakened in some quarters," commented observer Paul Hohnen of the Greenpeace organisation.

Delegates said European and other nations had urged that negotiations begin soon on protocols, or "specific agreements, to reduce specific greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane. Burning of oil, gas and coal produces carbon dioxide.

Such gases trap the earth's heat like greenhouse glass when they soar to the upper atmosphere, with the consequent risk of major flooding as oceans rise. Rainfall and crop yields could change disastrously.

The Saudi, American, Chinese and Soviet delegations effectively rejected the idea of deciding on early negotiations on protocols.

Instead, the working group decided more vaguely that the time and form of such negotiations, if any, should be decided by the UN General Assembly, delegates said.

The IPCC's working group on science has said the world should cut its output of carbon dioxide by up to 80 per cent, but the strategies working group in Geneva did not make any such strong recommendations.

The science group predicted that if no action were taken the global climate would rise by 0.3 degree Celsius (0.54 degree Fahrenheit) every decade for the next century.

The Geneva meeting demonstrated how difficult it will be to obtain eventual agreement on global action.

Oil exporters might not in the end be able to block such action on their own, but ecologists said they were already making it more difficult.

Many poorer nations like China wanted to protect their right to promote economic development which often entails the emission of carbon dioxide and other gases.

They are by no means unanimous. Countries like low-lying Bangladesh and the Maldives will be partly or totally flooded if the polar icecaps melt, and others are aware of the dangers of sea-level rise as their countries become dual worlds.

The Bush administration has argued that more scientific proof of the greenhouse effect is needed before costly measures are taken.

Nevertheless, it has issued an invitation for some time next year for the negotiation of an overall framework agreement on climate change to which specific protocols would be attached.

Third World countries have increased food production remarkably since 1965, except for Africa where the population has increased faster, according to a report issued Thursday.

The report entitled "World Resources" 1990-91 was published by the World Resources Institute, a private group, with the UN Development Programme and the UN Environment programme.

Between 1980 and 1987, output increased in 29 countries including Bangladesh, Indonesia and Nigeria, according to another study. But it found slower growth in 46 other countries, notably Brazil and Pakistan.

The study was conducted by the International Food Policy Research Institute which is financed by governments, international organisations and foundations.

It said food production trends were maintained in 16 countries including Argentina, India, Mexico, Thailand and Turkey.

Nato offers to settle discord

TURNBERRY, Scotland, June 9, (AP): The 16 Nato foreign ministers offered to compromise yesterday on differences with the Soviet Union on aircraft and other issues to speed completion of a treaty to reduce troops and tanks in Europe.

The Western allies also welcomed the Warsaw Pact's decision to politically reshape the Soviet-led alliance from a military to a political body. The Warsaw Pact leaders had met in Moscow on Thursday while their Nato counterparts convened their meeting in this Scottish seacoast town.

Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev appearing at a news conference in Moscow with visiting British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, said yesterday that the two alliances should cooperate with each other in the same way European leaders from both blocs have been in close contact.

The Nato foreign ministers said that completing the troop-reduction treaty this year would mean "a dramatic advance toward greater stability and security in Europe."

The negotiations in Vienna between the two sides have slowed down over the aircraft issue and Soviet reservations about the possibility of East Germany joining Nato after it is reunited with West Germany.

But US Secretary of State James Baker and other allied foreign ministers who met here concluded that the Soviets were lessening their objections.

On Tuesday, Baker offered Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze a nine-point Western package of guarantees, including that Nato troops would not move into East Germany.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said he had insisted that the communiqué issued by the Nato foreign ministers at the end of their two-day meeting reiterate past West German statements pledging the territory would be off-limits to Nato troops.

However, in an indication that the Nato foreign ministers might not yet be in agreement on the issue — Baker said at a news conference yesterday that how long the Nato troops keep out depends "in the final analysis" on the Germans.

Apart from the German issue the Soviets have objected to Nato's efforts in the Vienna negotiations to restrict aircraft. Moscow considers defensive.

As a result, the Warsaw Pact has not responded to the latest Nato proposal that sets a ceiling of 195,000 on US and Soviet troops in central Europe and imposes limits on tanks, aircraft, artillery, armoured personnel carriers, helicopters and other non-nuclear arms.

Baker said Shevardnadze indicated to him when they met in Copenhagen on Tuesday that the Soviets would have new proposals.

Other US officials said the proposals might be put on the table in Vienna in the next few days.

To reach the goal of signing a conventional forces in Europe treaty this year the allies pledged in their communiqué "to explore all open issues on the basis of a willingness on all sides to make reasonable compromises."

"We have, therefore, instructed our negotiators in Vienna to pursue new approaches to mutually acceptable solutions in particular, on aircraft, armour and verification," the Western ministers said.

Arms to Saudis

Jews may not oppose

WASHINGTON, June 9, (Kuna): Despite the size of the deal, American Jewish organisations were quoted as saying that they might not oppose the \$4 billion arms deal to Saudi Arabia that was announced by the Pentagon here earlier this week.

A spokesman for the American Jewish committee, Ira Silverman, said in a statement, however, that the American Jewish groups reserve the final judgment pending a study of the notification to Congress of the arms deal by the Defense Department.

But he added, "since the deal is concerned with nuts and bolts items, including supplies and not controversial combat items, we do not plan to oppose it."

The deal proposal that was sent to Congress including light armoured vehicles, anti-tank missiles and improvements on the AWACS electronic surveillance aircraft.

Members of Congress, who in the past had opposed the sale of sophisticated aircraft to the Saudis, voiced concern about the size of the package but stopped short of voting to block it. But congressional aides said most probably these congressmen will wait the official reaction of the Israeli government and its lobbying group Aipac before making a final decision.



Missiles removed

US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney has ordered short range nuclear missiles (shown above) removed from US bombers after warnings from scientists of a slight risk that the deadly radioactive plutonium could seep from the missiles in an accident.

Cheney said on Friday that the AGM-68A short range attack missile, known as the Sparrow, posed no safety danger but he issued the order pending a study of their safety.

The (nuclear weapon) laboratories have initiated new analyses," the secretary said. "Until those analyses are completed, I believe it is prudent to take the action."

It was the second recent problem outlined by Cheney with US nuclear weapons. He told reporters at a Nato meeting in Brussels three weeks ago that some US army nuclear artillery shells in West Germany had not met air safety specifications but that the problem was fixed in 1988.

Pact to end 'military body'

'Role of guardian abandoned'

BONN, June 9, (Reuters): The Warsaw Pact's military structure will be abolished by the end of this year, East German Defence Minister Rainer Eppelmann said in an interview published today.

Next week's meeting near East Berlin of the Eastern European military alliances defence ministers will be the last, said Eppelmann, who returned on Friday from a Warsaw Pact summit in Moscow.

On Thursday, the seven-nation pact formally abandoned its role as guardian of Kremlin power in Eastern Europe and committed itself to radical democratic change.

A pact declaration said old East-West ideological enmity had subsided and no longer suited the "spirit of the age."

It said the Warsaw Pact, which commands five million troops, had set up a commission which would present proposals for change to an extraordinary summit by the end of November.

Conference sources said the meeting was set for Budapest and reforms could come into force by January 1, 1991.

OTTAWA, June 9, (Kuna): Having passed through years of oppression, persecution, torture and discrimination at the hands of Israeli troops in occupied Palestine, Rima Terzi, nonetheless, did not give up her hopes and aspirations and still devotes her time and energy for the sake of the Palestinian people.

Terzi, who is deputy president of the Family Revival Society in Ramallah and member of the board of trustees of Beit Zeit University, is visiting Canada to attend meetings of the international conference for women currently taking place in Montreal.

Speaking to Kuna, the Palestinian Terzi says she tries not to appear pessimistic over the situation in the occupied territories, but when assessing concessions of the Palestinians over the past few years, she feels that they not only met with inconsideration from the Israelis but also with rigidity and increased intransigence.

"At the outset of the intifada I used to feel that independence is very near and I called the intifada the last bullet. But the Israelis and the Americans undermined our achievements while the collapse of the socialist world was not to our interests," she painfully says.

She adds, "It is regretful that our friends are now pressuring us more than our enemies to give more concessions."

Speaking on the so-called Shamir plan calling for local elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, she states that accepting this plan "means that we become just residents inside these lands whose fate, therefore, would only be decided by the Israelis."

All Palestinian factions, she asserts, must be aware that there is a "red line" that should not be crossed in the political manoeuvres toward a settlement with Israel and she appealed for halting any further concessions.

Egyptian writer Nawal El Saadawi said in Montreal that feminism is not a Western invention and it is deeply rooted in Arab history.

Saadawi also took the time last night to speak to a smaller group of Arab women in the Montreal community and she dazzled them with her articulate views concerning women in Arab society.

Saadawi gave her audience a short history of the feminist movement in Egypt and explained that she is often attacked as being pro-Western by her colleagues.

Health organisation's 10-year programme to fight tropical diseases

WASHINGTON, June 9, (AP): An international health organisation has embarked on a 10-year programme aimed at helping developing nations control tropical diseases such as intestinal worms and malaria.

International Medical Services for Health, based outside Washington, is raising money from companies, individuals and foundations to help Third World countries solve their health problems.

"We know we can affect the lives of 500

million people by the year 2000," said Linda Pfeiffer, president of the non-profit international health organisation.

More than 3 billion people — half the world's population — are afflicted by intestinal worms, malaria and schistosomiasis, she said.

"We can't do it for the whole world by the year 2000... but for this large part of the population we can contain it," she said in an interview.

Officials of the organisation were hold-

ing a two-day conference in Washington with representatives of non-profit groups from 25 countries and public health experts to work on the project, called the millennium programme.

The conference was sponsored by an educational grant from SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals, one of about 25 drug companies that contribute to the organisation.

The most widespread health problem in the tropical areas of Asia, Africa and

South America is intestinal worms, Pfeiffer said. Most of the approximately 3 billion

PLO sees harsher Israeli repression

New govt will push Mideast towards war

TUNIS, June 9. (Agencies): A senior PLO leader described Israel's new right-wing government today as a "war cabinet" which could be expected to increase repression against the Palestinians.

Salah Khalaf, better known as Abu Iyad, told Reuters: "It is a war cabinet, the worst in Israel's history, and represents the summit of fanaticism, intransigence and extremism."

"We expect fresh massacres against the Palestinian people from this government."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir yesterday formed Israel's most right-wing coalition, dominated by hawkish advocating increased Jewish settlement in the occupied areas, scene of a 30-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

Abu Iyad, number two in the mainstream Fatah movement of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat, said Palestinians would pursue their peace initiatives despite the right-wing make-up of the Israeli government.



Nissim (far left) signs an agreement June 8, forming the new right-wing government. (Reuters wirephoto)

Shamir sets guidelines

Influx, absorption given top priority

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, June 9. (Reuters): Following are excerpts from the policy guidelines of the new right-wing Israeli coalition formed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir yesterday (about 800 words—translation by Reuters):

1. Considering the united destiny of the Jews in Israel and in the diaspora in their struggle for existence, and the centrality of ingathering the Jewish people, the government will make immigration and absorption its first national mission....

The government will work to service the social, economic and cultural needs for a speedy and successful absorption of the immigrants to their homeland.

2. The Jewish people's right to the land of Israel is eternal and not open to question and it includes the right to security and peace.

3. The central tasks of the government in this period will be—ensuring the independence and sovereignty of the state, strengthening security, preventing war and paving the way for peace with all our neighbours.

■ The government will take care to strengthen the army's deterrent and defence forces against threats from states in the region, including their threats with non-conventional missiles and weapons.

■ The government will act aggressively against terror from any source. The army and other security force will work vigorously to ensure peace for all residents, to uproot the phenomenon of violence and unrest and to create calm throughout the land.

■ The government will make peace its first concern and will not cease in efforts for the furtherance of peace.

■ The government will work to continue the peace process according to the framework for peace in the Middle East in the Camp David accords and the peace initiative of May 14, 1989, in all its parts.

■ Israel encourages representatives of the Arabs of Judea, Samaria and occupied Gaza to

take part in the peace process.

■ Israel will oppose the creation of another Palestinian state in the occupied Gaza Strip and the territories between Israel and Jordan.

■ Israel will not negotiate with the PLO, directly or indirectly.

■ Israel calls on all Arab states to open peace negotiations in order to open a new page in the region, so that it may flourish and grow.

■ The government will work to further and strengthen mutual relations with Egypt according to the peace treaty between the two countries. The government calls on Egypt to fulfill its part of the peace treaty with Israel, including its obligations under the Camp David accords, and to give meaning and substance to the peace treaty according to its clauses, in the spirit and intention of the sides which signed it.

■ The government will foster friendly relations and reciprocal ties with every state that wants peace.

■ The government will continue the relations of friendship and understanding between the United States and Israel and will take care of their depth in every sense, including the strategic partnership.

■ The government will continue the phenomenon of the renewal of relations with East European countries and in other regions, and especially with the Soviet Union and will take care to pave the way for diplomatic relations with China.

■ United occupied Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital, it is one city under Israel's sovereignty and it cannot be divided; all religions will always be guaranteed freedom of worship and access to their holy places.

Occupied Jerusalem will not be included in the autonomy framework that will be given to the Arab residents of Judea, Samaria and the occupied Gaza Strip, and its Arab residents will not participate in the elections for representatives of the residents of Judea, Samaria and the occupied Gaza Strip either as voters or as candidates.

He expressed disappointment with the United States over its threat to break off dialogue with the PLO and said this would encourage the Israeli right-wing.

"We believe the United States is going to encourage this (Israeli) extremism, directly or indirectly, by its attitude towards the PLO-US dialogue."

In Nebraska yesterday, US President George Bush said Washington was considering cutting off dialogue with the PLO although no decision had been taken.

Bush said Arafat should condemn an attempted commando attack on Israel in May carried out by a faction of the PLO. The PLO leader has disclaimed responsibility for a raid but resisted US pressure to condemn the attack.

Dialogue

In Amman, Yasser Abed Rabbo, who leads the PLO side in the dialogue, said Washington would disqualify itself from Middle East peace efforts if it stopped talking to the PLO.

"Such a decision will amount, to an American declaration that it is unable to play a positive and constructive role in the Middle East peace process," Abed Rabbo told the English-language Jordan Times newspaper.

"It will encourage a fierce Israeli crackdown on the Palestinians and an unlimited, massive, influx of Jewish immigrants to Israel," he said.

Abed Rabbo accused Washington of seeking alternatives to the PLO even while the dialogue was in progress.

The Arab League, meanwhile, warned that Israel's new right-wing government would undermine Middle East peace prospects but may "jolt" the United States out of its "permissiveness" toward the Jewish state.

Clovis Maksoud, permanent observer of the 22-nation Arab League told reporters at the United Nations that the development may be a "blessing in disguise."

Provocation

"I hope formation of this new cabinet will jolt the US administration and the US Congress to come back to their historical sense of fairness in the Middle East," he said after a strategy session of the Arab group.

"This can be a blessing in disguise if it awakens the US administration from permissiveness to allow Israel to proceed with the defiance of the international community."

Maksoud added: "This (Israeli) government is a provocation to the basic humanity."

Arah commentators said today the formation of the most right-wing government in Israel's history was pushing the Middle East towards a new war.

Tension

"With the formation of a new government which includes the most extreme rightists who call for war, expulsion, expansion and colonialism, the situation in the Middle East is sliding towards more tension," said Jordan's independent Al-Dustour.

Sawt Al Sha'h, which often reflects the views of the Jordanian government, also said the Middle East was heading for an explosion.

Uprising

Palestinians shut themselves in their homes today, marking 30 months of revolt in the occupied territories amid fears for the future under Israel's new right-wing government.

Streets were deserted throughout the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem as a general strike closed businesses and halted transport.

"Nothing is moving except army vehicles," reported a resident of Nablus, a West Bank town under curfew since soldiers shot and killed two teenagers on Monday.



Jewish demonstrations

A right-wing Jewish man dressed June 8 in a "Yasser Arafat" costume holds a Palestinian flag at a demonstration by the peace group "The Women in Black". Scuffles took place between members of the peace group and members of the far right-wing group "Kach" as police intervened to separate the two groups. (Reuters wirephoto)

British-Iran ties likely to resume

NICOSIA, June 9. (AP): A key Iranian daily said today that Tehran and London could resume ties following what it termed positive statements by the leaders of both countries.

The English-language Tehran Times, which is considered close to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, said: "The two sides have paved the way for normalisation of ties."

The editorial was published following statements by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Rafsanjani that appeared to indicate that a resumption of relations, severed last year, was possible.

Still, the editorial stressed that "there is some distance to cover before relations between the two countries can be officially and ultimately normalised."

The daily's optimistic tone was at odds with anti-British sentiments from radical circles in Tehran who consider a resumption of ties with Britain an ideological sell-out by Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's so-called pragmatists.

The two countries have been at loggerheads over the February 1989 death sentence pronounced on British author Salman Rushdie by Iran's late spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini for blaspheming Islam in his novel, "The Satanic Verses."

Mrs Thatcher said earlier this week on a British Broadcasting Corp. phone-in programme that London had "the greatest respect for Islam."

That fell far short of fundamentalist demands that Britain surrender Rushdie to Islamic justice. But it appeared to narrow the gap between London and Rafsanjani's government, which has increasingly appeared to be urging the British to concede that Rushdie's novel was at least insulting to Muslims.

Rafsanjani, who has been seeking to improve Iran's relations with the West, told a Tehran news conference Wednesday that Iran had no objection in principle to resuming ties with Britain although he stressed that Rushdie was considered an enemy of Islam.

The Tehran Times said that statements by the two leaders "are explicit, positive, friendly and a great stride toward restoration of ties."

Tehran severed relations with London in February 1989 on the recommendation of Iran's Majlis or Parliament after Britain protested strongly against the death sentence pronounced by Khomeini on Indian-born Rushdie.

Hirawi fails to get arms

Christian clashes weaken truce

TUNIS, June 9. (Agencies): Lebanese President Elias Hirawi has failed in efforts to obtain arms during a three-nation tour of North Africa, sources in the president's delegation said today.

Hirawi is in Tunis for talks with Arab League Secretary General Cbedli Klibi and President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali after visits to Libya and Egypt.

The sources said Cairo, heavily reliant on Washington for arms, cited US opposition to weapons shipments to Lebanon in declining to provide Hirawi with military help.

Libya was willing to provide arms only to a "national" Lebanese Army and wanted assurances they would not be turned against Palestinians, the sources said.

Hirawi, seeking to extend his authority outside Syrian-controlled west Beirut, controls only Muslim-based brigades of the Lebanese Army.

General Michel Aoun, who disputed the legitimacy of Hirawi's election under Syrian auspices last November, commands mainly Christian units from his base in east Beirut.



President Elias Hirawi

Lebanese ministerial sources said it would cost \$492 million to re-equip the Lebanese Army into a force capable of disarming the plethora of private militias which have sprung up over the last 15 years of civil war and foreign intervention.

The Arab diplomats said Hirawi would ask President Ben Ali for more diplomatic support through the Arab League, the United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Conference and other international bodies.

Klibi said after talks with Hirawi today that the Lebanese president was satisfied with a

decision at the Baghdad Arab summit to create a special fund for Lebanese reconstruction.

The Arab League secretary general briefed Hirawi on the summit because the Lebanese leader followed Syria's example in boycotting the meeting last month.

Meanwhile, rival Christian forces skirmished with mortars in east Beirut today, raising fears that an increasingly shaky 23-day-old truce in a power struggle between Aoun and militia chief-tain Samir Geagea could soon collapse.

Police said no casualties were reported in the early morning exchanges which died down around 7:45 am (0445 GMT).

The Vatican-brokered ceasefire, called May 17, has halted major clashes between the two forces, which have been fighting for control of the Christian enclave north of Beirut since Jan 30.

But daily firefights between Aoun's troops and Geagea's right-wing militiamen have become routine and police officials said all-out fighting could resume because mediators have failed to secure a political settlement.

5th year in captivity

Sutherland's wife marks 'versary

BEIRUT, June 9. (AP): The wife of US hostage Thomas Sutherland, who marks his fifth year in captivity today said she does not bear a grudge against his Shiite Muslim kidnappers.

"I don't feel bitter. It doesn't do you any good...to feel bitter," Jean Sutherland said in an interview at her office on the campus of the American University of Beirut.

Mrs Sutherland, 56, lives and works at AUB in Muslim west Beirut, continuing the work she and her husband were doing before he was kidnapped June 9, 1985.

"Tom and I are just ordinary people who came here to do a job. The job is still there and we're still doing it and we just have to hang

tough as long as we have to," she said.

"I was just determined that the continuity should go ahead, that there shouldn't be changes," she added. "This has been tremendously rewarding for me."

Scottish-born Sutherland, 59, of Fort Collins, Colorado, is the second longest-held hostage in Lebanon. He was dean of agriculture at AUB when he was kidnapped on the airport runway a few minutes after he returned from a visit to the United States.

In addition to Sutherland, 15 other Westerners are missing in Lebanon. They include five Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Irishman and an Italian.

American hostage Terry Anderson, 42, of Lorain, Ohio, is the longest held. Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press, was kidnapped in Beirut March 16, 1985.

Islamic Jihad, the pro-Iranian Shiite group that holds Sutherland, has never issued a photo of him. The only word on his welfare has come from former hostages who had been held with him.

Mrs Sutherland, a tall woman with short, dark grey hair, never loses her smile even when she talks about the pain of her husband's captivity.

Mrs Sutherland, who has a doctorate in English literature, spends most of her time at work, teaching English for beginners.

She is also in charge of a new programme teaching English to nurses at the university's hospital.

"We're giving them a strong English programme so they can go on and work on the wards. That's been very rewarding," she said.

"It kind of symbolises what has to happen if people from different countries are going to be able to understand each other and make things work," she said.

Mrs Sutherland said she has not changed anything in her house since her husband was abducted.

"If Tom walked through my door today, the house would look just as though he left yesterday. Maybe that's part of what you do to make do and I go on. In our situation, I count days or hours or weeks or years," she said.

The Sutherlands have four daughters, Ann, 32, Kit, 26, Joan, 26. They all live in the United States.



Jean Sutherland poses for journalists as she hangs pictures of her husband at the bulletin board at the AUB June 8. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tunisia reforms stalled by boycott

TUNIS, June 9. (Reuters): The democratic process launched two years ago by Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali appears stalled with all opposition groups boycotting municipal elections due tomorrow.

During the electoral campaign, state television has been calling on voters to choose their representatives, but in 228 out of 245 municipalities only the ruling party is fielding candidates.

In the other 17 municipalities, voters have a choice between candidates of the ruling Constitutional Democratic assembly (RCD) and independents most of whom are defectors from the RCD.

PLF plans attacks

Hang glider raids

AMMAN, June 9. (Reuters): A Palestinian leader whose group tried to raid Israel by sea last month plans to attack again, using hang gliders.

In an interview published today by the Jordanian daily Sawt Al Sha'h, Mahmoud Abbas said his Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) would keep up what he called the armed struggle against Israel.

"The next attack will be carried out by hang gliders and will cover many sectors... the coast, the interior, the north and the south," Abbas, nom de

guerre Abu Abbas, was quoted as saying.

Sawt Al Sha'h did not say when or where the interview took place.

A powered hang glider was used in November 1987 in one of the most lethal attacks on the Jewish state.

A solitary member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command penetrated Israel from Lebanon and killed six Israeli soldiers before being shot dead by one of more than half a dozen wounded in the attack.

New Yemeni Republic drafts law to outlaw Marxism, curbs fundamentalists

SANAA, June 9. (Reuters): The new Yemeni Republic would outlaw Marxism and curb Muslim fundamentalist groups and curb Muslim fundamentalist groups under a proposed law on formation of political parties made public yesterday.

Under the legislation, published by official media, all parties would have to respect Islam and consider it the official religion of the country.

"No party or political organisation has the right to infringe upon the Islamic faith of the Yemeni people or claim to exclusively represent religion (Islam)," the

proposed law said, in an apparent reference to Marxists and fundamentalists.

The law would ban parties from adopting the principles or "any form of the extinct regimes" of conservative North Yemen and South Yemen, which had been the only Marxist state in the Arab world.

The legislation will be put to parliament, which is expected to meet next week to discuss it and 45 other draft laws.

The Yemens merged late last month, ending 300 years of separation.

In the run-up to unification, North Yemen's Ali Abdullah Saleh accused Marxist and radical Muslim groups of working against it.

The draft law, released by the political organisation committee, said all proposed parties should start presenting their political programmes by June 16, in order to get legal approval to form.

All parties and political organisations have to restrict their activities and regulations and principles to the constitution and effective laws of the country," it said.

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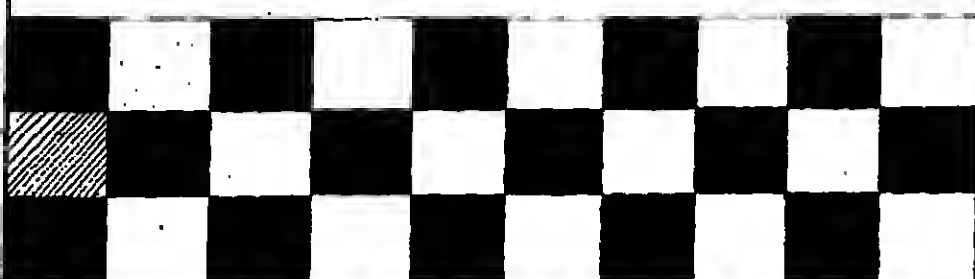
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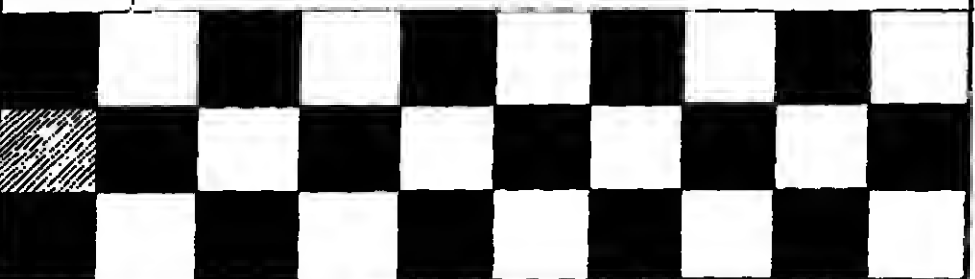
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Formula for privatising state shares soon

Dire need of confidence in Bourse

THE final formula for privatising government shares in companies listed in the bourse are expected to be completed within the next four months, Kuwait's Minister of Finance, Jassim Al Khorafi said.

In a seminar at Kuwait University on the theme "Government Policies in the private sector" Khorafi underscored his conviction that the government will profit from the privatisation process as compared to purchase cost. The privatisation process will be based on specific criteria taking into account the administrative and follow up costs, incurred by the government as represented by the Public Investment Authority.

The government has decided to sell its shares in 13 companies to the private sector, the official said and commented that this could not be classified as a privatisation process, as the privatisation process is an integrated programme of political and social processes and comprehensive economic liberalisation.

He added that the 13 companies which the government would like to sell its shares in were suffering losses, and said that the sale of these shares will constitute a statement for the private sector as no benefits will be realised. This could lead to judicial proceedings calling on the government for compensation. However, he clarified that the privatisation process of the 13 companies aimed at alleviating the burdens of the Public Investment Authority underlined the fact that the budget of these companies is available to any prospective purchaser.

Khorafi said that the privatisation programme will initially concentrate on companies listed in the bourse and these

will be totally privatised — not because the private sector is more efficient than the public sector, but because the subscription of the government to these companies does not fall within government avenues and their subscription in these companies was the result of exceptional circumstances.

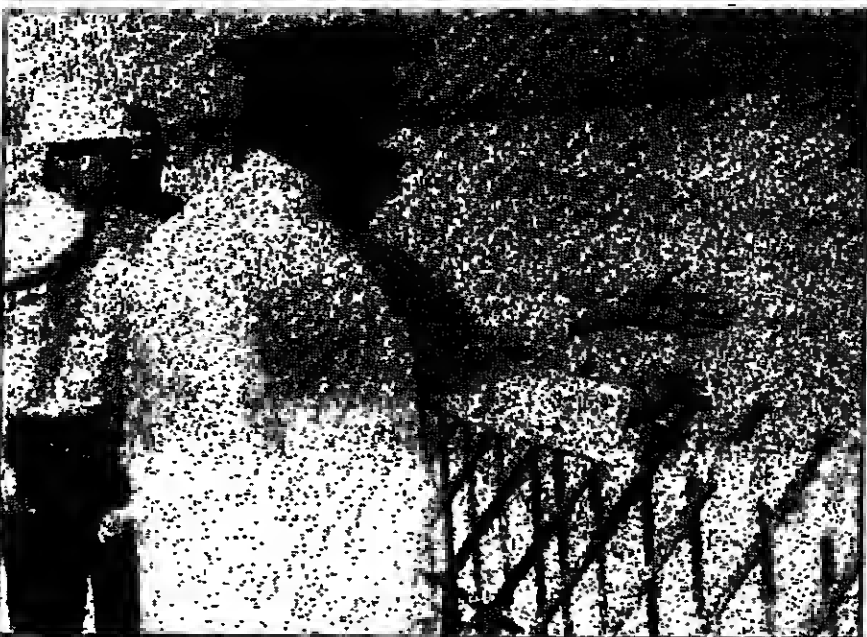
He said that during the economic comprehensive review conducted in 1986, special concern was given to handling companies listed in the bourse. He said that it is not possible to keep the positions of these companies at a "status quo" as it was during the Manakh crisis.

Further, it is not possible to proceed with the privatisation process without taking into account the position in the stock market as the market is in dire need to regain the confidence of shareholders. The government had opened a dialogue with the Chamber of Commerce and

Industry and officials in the Kuwait Stock Market in addition to experts in the private sector to crystallise opinions and draw up appropriate formulae.

However, he said: "The government is not required to provide everything to investors with a golden spoon." Investors should follow a discerning policy he said.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti economist, Jassim Al Sadoun commented on the ministers' speech as saying that it was unbalanced, lacked necessary data which could be of potential use to investors and researchers. Specifically commenting, he said that the minister had given some parameters to be taken into account during the privatisation process, without giving necessary figures, costs and risks and said that the entire exercise is a "trial balloon" intended to gauge the reaction of the market.



Minister of Public Works Abdul Rahman Al Houli inspecting the construction of the project.

KD13.5m roads project

Bid to sort out traffic congestion

MINISTER of Public Works Abdul Rahman Ibrahim Al Houli has said that the completion of the roads leading to Mirgah area project will be in the middle of the summer of 1991.

He said in a press statement following his inspection visit to the project site yesterday that project construction is progressing satisfactorily adding that the project involves the reconstruction of the remaining parts of the first ring road at 2.10 km and the two interchanges with the Magreb and Abdullah Al Mubarak and Cairo streets with Mubarak Al Kaber Street.

He added that the project also included the construction of the east-west passage for the Soot Street with three traffic lanes and interchange with bifurcated roads besides the construction of three concrete pedestrian

flyovers, one over the Mansouria interchange and the two other over the First Ring Road and the construction of two pedestrian tunnels.

Schedule

The project had been frozen following the withdrawal of work from the previous contractor. For falling behind schedule and failing to complete the work within the stipulated time, the remaining part of the project was then given to another contractor winning the tender at a construction cost of KD 13.25 million.

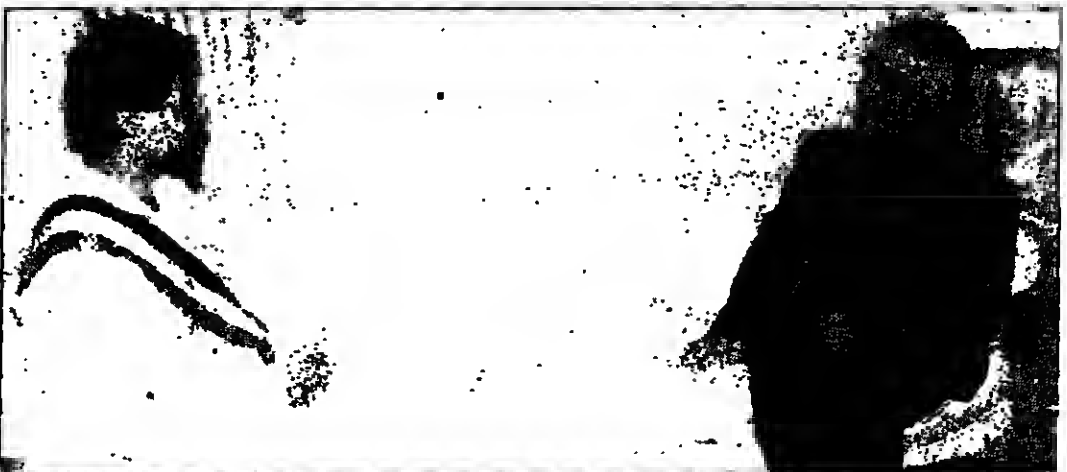
The minister said that the current contractor showed commendable co-operation with the ministry for completion of the project in the optimum manner required, adding that a new engineering technique will be used to restrain the vertical pressure

of underground water through setting up ground stabilisers totalling 3085.

He pointed out that the control of underground water vertical pressure through the use of ground stabilisers is a pioneering step which places Kuwait among the first countries in the world to use this technique.

He attached great importance to this project and volume of construction work involved, adding that the work done so far is great, but may not be clearly visible to the average man.

He said that the project, once completed, will contribute actively to sorting out traffic congestion in the country, particularly at the First Ring Road area intersection adding that the traffic lights on these intersections will not become redundant after the completion of the project.



Jubaili with King Hussein of Jordan.

Around the world on foot

95,000 kilometres to cover

By Yousif Al Awna

AHMAD JUBAILI, a Syrian physician has in his quest to walk around the world worn out 23 walking shoes in crossing thirty countries covering a distance of 19,000 kilometres.

This length is the first state of his planned five stages to complete the distance of 95,000 kilometres. The last stage of his journey will be Hiroshima, Japan and according to Jubaili has been planned to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the 1955 American nuclear bombing of this once bustling and prosperous metropolis.

Speaking to the daily Al Seyassah, Jubaili indicated that his journey slogan is "Everything for Childhood, Love and Peace" and is aimed at delivering a message to all country leaders on the need to give enhanced attention to the children of the world and is also intended to visit children's hospitals, planting a tree in Friendship Park and giving lectures on these objectives in the propagation of world peace.

During his visit to Kuwait, Jubaili was received by

the undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Issa Yaseen. The meeting was also attended by the assistant undersecretary for Youth Affairs, Abdul Rahman al Mazroui and directors of Youth and Scouts Camp at the ministry Sulaiman Al Ashwak.

In his conversation with Al Seyassah, Jubaili said that the second stage of his journey includes a part of Africa, America, Asia, Australia and Japan. He said that he had financed his trip by selling all his physiotherapy equipment and assets.

The second leg of his journey will bring him to Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Yemen and then onwards to Africa.

He carries a tent, sleeping bag, clothes for all weather conditions, letters to countries around the world, medicines, snack food, four flags namely, Syrian, Japanese, United Nations.

Jubaili confirmed that he has two children — a son and a daughter, who he will try to bring to Kuwait for a week prior to continuing his journey. He said he had been travelling for two years and longed to be with the family.

Air India

Special awards for Gulf schools

AIR INDIA has always encouraged people in the pursuit of perfection. This commitment has now been extended to students who strive for the top position in their academic life.

Towards this end, Air India has launched a Special Scholastic Awards Scheme, as announced by the Regional Director for Gulf and Middle East, M.P. Managachary, visiting to schools in the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Iran, affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi.

Managachary said that originally Air India had decided to reward the top ranking student, either boy or girl, who obtained the highest marks in the 1990 CBSE examination with a free economy class round trip ticket to India. It has now been decided to expand the scheme to reward separately the top-ranking boy student and girl student who obtain the highest marks in the 1990 CBSE examination, with free economy class round trip tickets to India.

The results for the 1990 CBSE examination will be announced in a few days' time, and these free round trip tickets to the top ranking boy and top ranking girl students in each school will be offered on Air India's service between cities in the Gulf and the Middle East region where the school is located and any point in India which is served by Air India, which these students may desire to visit.

It is also clarified that in case the school that qualifies for this Free Tickets Scheme has its highest class lower than Standard XII but up to Standard X, a free ticket will be offered to the top ranking boy and girl student of the highest class in that school.

Air India's Marketing Manager for the Gulf and the Middle East, Fatima Colaco mentioned that 29 schools have been selected for the Air India Special Scholastic Awards Scheme.

Colaco also mentioned that all schools selected for the Air India Free Tickets Scheme have been provided with suitable posters for display in school notice boards. Furthermore, prize winning students will also be awarded a special certificate designed by Air India's art studio in Bombay.

The total number of tickets which will be awarded under the scheme will be approximately 60 in the Gulf and Middle East region amounting to KD 1,000/-.

Kuwaitis go to polls

(Continued from Page 1)

The government over the past weeks emphasized that the creation of the national council does not violate the constitution which calls for a parliament and will be a prelude for "a new parliamentary life that everts further shocks."

Western diplomatic sources say the elections have developed into a major test of the popular support enjoyed by the government in the face of its critics, whose activity since December was largely tolerated by authorities.

"Look around you in this area and you will easily see how democratic this government is," a top government official said.

"They are (the activists) our

brothers. We have different views, but that is all," he added.

Campaigning took on a frenzied tone on Friday night and throughout today, with little expected before the polls open at 8 am (0500 GMT) on Sunday. Further shocks, Air Khitani, took out nine newspapers, advertising its advertisements today, including two on the front page of Al Watan. The newspaper has not published any reports about election campaigning.

Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah received today delegation of journalists representing big newspapers, magazines and Arab media on the occasion of their visit to Kuwait to cover the National Council's elections.

Fight to the death

A 12-year-old boy was pronounced dead on arrival at the Jahra casualty ward where he was brought for treatment from severe cuts in the right side of the neck and in the chest.

It was learnt later that the victim had a fight with a 14-year-old boy who inflicted the wounds in the designated areas on his body with a piece of glass.

Investigation is in progress and the suspect is still at large.

Telephone disturbances

KUWAIT, June 9. (Kuna): The Communications Ministry said today that it registered 17 disturbing telephone calls within one week.

An official source at the ministry added that the service was cut off for 17 telephones during the period of June 2-9 because of disturbing calls. He also noted that the owners of these telephones have been turned to the authorities.

The source indicated that the Communications Ministry monitors telephones upon the request of their owners.

WANTED OFFICE CLERK

for the procurement section. English and Arabic typing (40 wpm) is required. Word processor desirable. Knowledge of general office work. Transferable visa.

Please call 242-4151 ext 211.

'BUNGALOW PLOT' FOR SALE IN PUNE (INDIA)

Exclusive Bungalow Society at prestigious Sopan Baug, near Race Course and behind Empress Gardens. Plot area — 7917 sq. ft. in Pune. Contact Fazlur Rahman (Pune) on Tel. No. 001-212-654908 after 9 pm. Mailing address: 4 Dastan Apartments, Shankarseth Road, PUNE 411 002 In Kuwait contact Ajit on Tel. No. 5655496 after 8 pm.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

I LIKE a man who grins when he fights — Sir Winston Churchill, British Statesman - 1874-1965.

Korean peninsula
Seoul thawing
cold war ice

WASHINGTON, (AP): Euphoria over South Korea's success at thawing cold war ice is tempered by the reality that change may come slowly and painfully to North Korea.

South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo announced triumphantly after meeting Mikhail Gorbachev in San Francisco last week that Seoul and Moscow would work toward full relations, and that the Soviet President promised to help encourage reform and openness in North Korea, Moscow's client state.

Roh said this should reduce tension on the Korean peninsula and help end its 45 years of division into two rival countries.

However, US and South Korean officials and American scholars generally agreed that for glasnost and perestroika to penetrate North Korea, a leadership change might be required in one of the world's most closed societies.

Cult

The personality cult around 77-year-old North Korean President Kim Il-Sung has been compared to that of the late Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. Ceausescu's forces shot thousands of Romanians before he and his wife Elena were arrested, tried secretly and executed in the bloodiest of last year's East bloc revolutions.

South Koreans hope for a scenario more like that in Germany which was also divided at the end of World War II.

The Roh government uses the German expression "Nordpolitik," or northern policy, for approaches to North Korea. West Germany pursued "Ostpolitik" to approach East Germany, and the two countries are now on the verge of unification.

A senior member of Roh's entourage, insisting on anonymity, acknowledged that the swift fall from power of East Germany's Erich Honecker and other European communist leaders could discourage rather than encourage Kim Il-Sung to accept reform.

Until recently, North Korea was so cut off that its people heard little to counter the official propaganda that they lived in a workers' paradise. Unlike Eastern Europe, the leadership was not facing much popular pressure, several experts said.

Seoul hopes this will gradually change, as the opening of the Berlin Wall and coming of democracy to East Europe enables North Korean officials said. Reportedly, changes in Europe have prompted North Korea to call home potential defectors.

Pressure

If, as in China, pressure for economic changes builds pressure for political change in North Korea. The possibility could arise of Pyongyang cracking down with force, like China a year ago against pro-democracy demonstrators.

"I'm relatively pessimistic about any change in domestic or foreign policy," in North Korea, said Daryl M. Plunk, visiting fellow at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank. "Certainly not until Kim Il-Sung is gone. There is no indication that it would be different with Kim Jong-Il," Kim Il-Sung's son and heir apparent. But the younger Kim will be more vulnerable, Plunk added.

"I don't think there's any chance of collapse (in North Korea) of the kind in Romania or East Germany," said Selig S. Harrison, senior associate of the private Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, who has visited North Korea twice.

"What is possible is the opening to the outside world they need for economic reasons... but quick changes are not possible under the present leadership," Harrison added. There is no power struggle, but hawks and doves do contest over economic policy, he said.

Harrison predicted Gorbachev would encourage North Korean reform, but also press South Korea and the United States to reduce armaments along the North-South border, one of the world's most heavily fortified frontiers.

Normalisation

"Early normalisation of relations between Seoul and Moscow is greatly overrated," he said, but "Gorbachev has bought time" to increase trade and investment from South Korea by giving Seoul the important symbolic gesture of meeting Roh.

Meanwhile, he added, "I think we are going to see Gorbachev trying to play more of a peacemaker role."

He said Gorbachev would urge South Korea and the United States to consider seriously North Korean proposals for them to reduce forces along the demarcation zone. An easing of the arms race would allow Pyongyang to divert some of its heavy military spending to consumer industries.

Roh, Gorbachev and US presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater have all been quoted recently as saying North Korea should not be made to feel threatened.

US and South Korean officials have often voiced concern that North Korea could react irrationally and violently if it felt threatened or cornered. Administration officials have said that in improving its own relations with North Korea, the United States would press Pyongyang to renounce terrorism and to accept international inspection of its nuclear facilities required and long overdue under the non-proliferation treaty.

The Soviet Union, a co-sponsor of the treaty with the United States, is also concerned about the possibility North Korea might make an atomic bomb, Plunk noted.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1560 — Mary of Guise: Queen Dowager of Scotland, dies.
- 1610 — First Dutch settlers in America land on Manhattan island.
- 1719 — Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI expels Spaniards from Sicily.
- 1794 — Power of French revolutionary tribunals is increased, leading to mass executions.
- 1848 — Austrian forces are victorious at Vicenza in Italy against Sardinians.
- 1868 — Michael III, King of Serbia, is murdered, and is succeeded by Milan IV.
- 1891 — L. Starr Jameson becomes administrator of South Africa Company's areas.
- 1898 — US Marines invade Cuba in Spanish-American war.
- 1903 — King Alexander I and Queen Draga of Serbia are murdered.
- 1907 — Japan and France agree to preserve "open-door" in China.
- 1917 — Sinn Féin riots break out in Dublin, Ireland.
- 1942 — German Gestapo kills male residents of Lidice, Czechoslovakia, in retaliation for assassination of a German official.
- 1967 — Israel agrees to United Nations ceasefire with Egypt, with Israel holding conquered territory four times its own size.
- 1970 — At least 100 persons are killed in fighting between government forces and guerrillas in Jordan.
- 1971 — United States lifts 21-year-old embargo on trade with China.
- 1973 — Fighting in South Vietnam gains momentum as each side jockey for more territory under ceasefire agreement; Soviet Union announces stricter controls on movement of Americans in Moscow area.
- 1988 — Riot police in South Korea block thousands of students trying to march to North Korea for reunification talks.
- 1989 — Police arrest 1,000 people in Seoul, Korea, as radical students battle riot police in demand for overthrow of President Roh Tae-Woo.

Rebellion in Soviet Asia
Frustration feeds resistance

TASHKENT, USSR, (AP): Almost overlooked in the nationwide tumult, Soviet Central Asians are reclaiming their identity waging a free-form rebellion against Moscow while warring among themselves.

New political movements, led by intellectuals and fed by an Islamic revival, accuse local authorities of perpetuating Kremlin control. Poverty and social frustration are sowing violence.

Vicious communal riots, quelled by shoot-to-kill military repression, have killed hundreds of people perhaps more than 1,000, in the past year. Rampaging youths have torched whole neighbourhoods.

Throughout the region activists say that President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's promise of perestroika eludes Asians who do not want space in the "common European home" he envisions for the future.

Unlike the northern republics where Baltic republics bargain for a separate place in new Europe, Asians pursue a dream of reviving 1,000-year-old roots suffled by Russian rule.

Despite 70 years of Soviet overlay, much of the region remains almost as the silk-caravan drivers found it on their way from China. Only blocks from Tashkent's grandiose monuments to Soviet saviours, old men in robes and skullcaps sip tea under mulberry trees.

Beyond mud walls on winding streets hardly wide enough for a laden donkey, youths read the Holy Quran and mutter darkly about a century of Russian imperialism. Increasingly, they are ready to fight.

Algeria

"This is like what happened in Algeria," said Igor Krupnik, a specialist in ethnic conflict at the Soviet Academy of Sciences, evoking the upheaval which drove France from its North African colony.

But unlike Algeria, he said bitter divisions among peoples in the five Central Asia republics add the threat of internal civil war, pitting Asians against each other as they resist Moscow.

In Uzbekistan, the third most populous Soviet republic, and in Tadjikistan, to the south along the Afghan border, Russians are leaving in growing numbers, joining an exodus of ethnic minorities.

Although some Russians admit to fear of violence many say they are leaving before worsening economic and social conditions in Central Asia trigger a mass departure.

Potential unrest spreads across a vast area approaching a population of 50 million, echoing concerns in this modernized ancient capital, 1,800 miles (2,900 kilometres) from Moscow.

While fighting in the Caucasus is confined to well-delineated borders, as in Lebanon, Krupnik said internal strife among Central Asian groups could spill across a Soviet southern border stretching from Iran to China.

On June 4, violence broke out between Uzbeks and Kirghiz on the border between their republics, over desperately scarce land. A skirmish spread to pitched battle, and scores were killed.

Like tinder igniting from a small spark fighting spread to Fuzhn, capital of Kirghizia, Uzbeks and Kirghiz, like Kazakhs and Turkmen, share Turkic roots but also a history of conflict.

Tashkent's ethnic diversity is especially evident with neighbouring Uzbeks.



Gorbachev

The Soviet policy of clamping down hard acts is to intensify frustration, Asians say.

In Kazakhstan, the sweep of steppe bridging Russia and Asia, tension is less evident, but young radicals deride authorities in Moscow for crushing nationalist stirrings.

Al Kazakh editor of the underground weekly, Turkesun, afraid to be named for fear of reprisal, said she turned radical when troops fired on crowds in Alma Ata, Kazakhstan, in 1986.

Kazakhs were protesting the nomination of a Russian as first secretary of the local Communist Party. It was the first ethnic violence after Gorbachev took power.

Hangman

"For the outside, Gorbachev is a champion of perestroika," she said. "For us, he is a hangman." Leaders of popular front movements in three troubled republics said in interviews that their goal was independence within a few years, although none wanted to pin down details.

"We want independence as soon as possible but it is too early to say what that means," said Abdurabim Pulatov, chairman of the unofficial Uzbekistan party, Birlik, a vanguard movement.

Mohammed Solikh, an Uzbek poet who heads the rival opposition movement, Erk, echoed Pulatov's remarks.

Western specialists say Central Asians, though divided among themselves, share a common purpose: to restore their language, culture and traditional values.

"I am amazed by an overwhelming sentiment to throw the scales out," said Edward Alworth, a Columbia University professor who has written widely on Central Asia in Tashkent for new

research.

Travel restrictions limit access, but interviews in areas recently closed to foreigners and under curfew reflect emotions ranging from vague unease to panic. In the rich Fergana Valley, east of here, the mood is grim.

"They killed like animals," said a law student named Nasli, an ethnic Turk whose family was among many thousands displaced by Stalin from Meskhetia in southern Georgia generations ago.

She said she survived the Fergana Valley violence a year ago that took 107 lives by official count.

"There were at least a thousand dead," she said. "Uzbeks chopped off children's hands, gouged out eyes, hurled people alive."

Her family's Tashkent house was burned in new violence last February, a ripple from bloody assaults in the town of Parkent, 60 miles from here. "Now I am leaving for good," Nasli said.

Only last month gangs of young Uzbeks rampaged through the Fergana town of Andizhan firebombing the homes of Armenians, Jews and Russians. Women were raped, but no one was killed. Victims said local authorities ignored appeals for help.

Minorities

Krupnik called that a new tactic to frighten minorities without attracting army reprisals. "These things are very serious. Authorities respond in the old way, and the situation worsens."

In February, thousands of young Tadjiks sacked Dushanbe in riots touched off by reports that Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan were being given scarce housing. Quickly, witnesses said, they turned on Russians.

A senior Tadjik official, who spoke frankly but on condition he not be named said that only two people were killed by rioters. The rest were shot by army troops restoring order heightening resentment against Moscow. He put the death toll at twice the official figure of 27.

In the aftermath, Tadjik intellectuals rankled at Moscow papers which emphasized attacks on Russians. The real target, Tadjiks said, was the stifling Soviet system.

"We have nothing against Russians and we condemn the violence," said Abdurabim Tobir, head of Rastobez (Renaissance) the Tadjik Popular Front. "But we want to control our own lives."

Like Pulatov and Solikh in Tashkent, he denied that Islam was behind the violence. "It is social frustration," he said, noting that Tadjikistan underemployment approached a third of the work force.

Opposition leaders say they want to build an economy that allows youths to find jobs and homes. They say that an imposed dependence on cotton has not only wrought havoc on the environment but also has crippled possibilities for economic viability without Soviet support.

But, fired with a sense of cultural and natural identity suppressed since the Czars, many activists argue that economics will follow once the politics are settled.

"Old corrupt ways still continue," Solikh said. "We must wake up the people. As long as we have governments that look to Moscow, we cannot do anything with the people's needs, we cannot be independent."

Israeli coalition could be short-lived

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): The most right-wing government in Israeli history may also be among the most short-lived, if it ever gets off the ground, political sources say.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir formed a right-wing coalition on Friday, dominated by tough-talking hawks opposed to peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

Aides said the 74-year-old Likud Party leader was reluctant to force an alliance with far-right and ultra-religious parties, which could lead Israel into world isolation.

But they said he had no choice after the Labour Party brought down a national unity cabinet in March over his refusal to accept US proposals for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Despite a parliamentary majority of 62-58 on paper, the new coalition looks highly unstable.

Squabbling

Rival religious parties are still squabbling over

government posts and three disaffected Likud backbenchers may yet demand cabinet seats as the price for their vote.

Barring last-minute hitches, the government is due to seek a vote of confidence in Parliament on Monday.

Once it takes office, Shamir could quickly become a prisoner of hawks like Ariel Sharon and David Levy in his own party, of ultra-orthodox rabbis and what one aide described as "right-wing crazies."

The pressures may drive him to seek early elections or a renewed unity government with Labour, political sources said.

"It's very difficult if you only have a narrow majority and you can be blackmailed on every parliamentary vote. There will be three crises a week in this coalition," a seasoned cabinet official said.

The government will depend on the parliamentary support of three far right parties — Tehiya and Tsomet, which favour annexation of the occupied

territories and unbridled Jewish settlement there, and Meledet, which advocates the mass "transfer" of Arabs to Jordan.

Unpopularity

The unpopularity of the new government, which opinion polls showed only 14 per cent of Israelis wanted, could also increase public pressure for reform of an electoral system which gives fringe parties the balance of power.

"Whatever government is formed, it is clear that Israel's political system is rotten to the core," political commentator Yediyahu Ben-Porat wrote in the mass-circulation Yediot Ahronoth on Friday.

The Maariv newspaper, in an outspoken editorial, lambasted the country's politicians as "pigs, pimps and prostitutes."

Likud Minister Ehud Olmert, who negotiated the coalition, said it was not the happiest day of his political career and he did not expect the coalition to last long.

Letters to the editor

No fare hike

SIR: Apropos letter which appeared in your daily dated June 4, 1990 in the column "Letters to the Editor" under the caption "Justify action" by C.K. Satyraj seeking certain clarification in the matters of fare hikes and withdrawal of lay-over facilities by the airlines.

First and foremost, let it be made clear to your readers that the lay-over facilities are still available to our passengers and also that there is no hike in air fare to the Indian sub-continent, as has been misunderstood and mentioned by most of the Indian passengers.

Till date, airlines in Kuwait are not charging the IATA published excursion fare of KD197.00 for a journey Kuwait-Bombay-Kuwait or Kuwait-Delhi-Kuwait. The so-called increase in air fare is felt mainly due to the withdrawal of incentives which were offered in the past in the form of discounted fares, both by agents and airlines operating in Kuwait.

Secondly, Kuwait is the only country in the entire Gulf region where even today airlines do not charge the IATA published fare to the Indian sub-continent, but still offer discounts.

Thirdly, the fare agreements are multilateral and have been arrived at by mutual understanding between airlines and their respective governments and no unilateral cut can be legally offered without a mutual agreement from these agencies.

In short, the airline cannot cut the price unilaterally even if it wanted to do so.

Fourthly, IATA has no legal fiat beyond being an umbrella and the decision to reduce fares can only be made in consonance with the airlines and their respective governments which are signatories to the contract. A unilateral reduction could be granted if the airline petitioned its co-signatories for permission but it must first be allowed to do so by its own government.

The government of India has recently announced that it will appoint a high level consultative committee to go into the fare structure of Gulf-India routes and come up with their recommendations. Till then, Air India has no option but to fall in line with the national carrier and charge

the fares decided upon and agreed by the other airlines operating out of Kuwait.

P.R. Kanga,
Manager,
Air India,
Kuwait.

School 'directors'

SIR: The news (letter) about terminating the "director" by the board of trustees, to develop school was read with laughter because its like amputating a right hand, for "brain tumour". The poor director was implementing directors' orders.

However, to improve the school and for the welfare of the students and teachers, the board of trustees should be moved, one by one. It is reliably understood that the previous chairman wanted to remove the old faces by bringing in new blood but he was routed by the engineers' and doctors' lobby, who feel that Indian School is inherited by them from their forefathers!

There is one engineer who has been on the board for over 10 years and even if by force he is moved, he will not go from the school. Early in the morning he goes to the ministry and signs and comes back to school and stays at the school office, watching the staff and director till midnight.

What qualification does he have to run a school, compared to the director who is well trained. These "top people" have difficulties understanding the difficulties of an ordinary parent-a labourer-a driver-or a teacher! The profit they make as commissions, etc. are much more than what they give to the staff.

Fare increase

Now that the boycott has started, slowly, Maharaja has started feeling it. Now, while other airlines are flying full load, you can always get seats in Air India. The best remedy is avoid flying Air India. Where are those leaders, who used to be godfathers of Indians? Where are those associations? Now the best medicine is boycott. Fly elsewhere, but not Air India.

Manohar Lal,
Kuwait.

Baseless call

SIR: Call for membership by the so-called PAC's veterans is absolutely baseless and has no footing.

The two names being used as veterans are of Abdus-Sattar Qureshi and Abdus-Sattar Ghazali. For the information of our PAC's well-wishers we would like to indicate that the first person (ASQ) was given an assignment as vice-president of the Pakistan Arts Circle at the time of reorganisation before 5 years. No doubt, he is one of the persons who was taken as worker in PAC but he never paid a single penny to PAC during the past 25 years.

His contribution to PAC is zero and still he claims to be a veteran. PAC's delegate to Pakistan who discussed the prevailing hijacking of PAC's name by these two persons, with the executive committee of the PAC was that he was not aware of the name of ASQ but enumerated in details the notorious activities of ASQ who held an illegal meeting at his residence during 1980, and passed a vote of no confidence against the president. Since then his wish is to become the head of the PAC.

Recently this fellow ASQ has made an announcement in a Pakistani magazine that he was recently elected as the new president of PAC. The executive committee of the PAC takes a serious view of their activities, trying to spoil the name of PAC and creating conflicts between the patrons. We request all Pakistan brothers to be aware of their activities.

Member of the Executive Committee,
Kuwait.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Manohar Lal,
Kuwait.Nato
Holes in
security
network

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): The latest Nato spy scandal makes clear the Warsaw Pact knew plenty about Western alliance battle plans and Nato is lucky the Soviet-led pact is losing its punch, military experts said on Friday.

"I don't know if we knew about them what they knew about us, but it's obvious that Nato forces could have been in a mess if shooting started," said Jim Blackwell of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) announced on Thursday night that agents in Tampa, Florida, had arrested former US Army Sergeant Roderick James Ramsay for alleged espionage while he was stationed in West Germany, the heart of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation defence.

Ring

US officials said Ramsay was part of a spy ring that had passed Nato war plans to the Soviet bloc, including Hungarian and Czechoslovakian intelligence services, for some 20 years.

What struck Blackwell and other military analysts was that the West may escape the consequences of such security blunders simply because the democratic reforms that have swept the East bloc have also thrown the Warsaw Pact into disarray and vastly reduced its military threat to Western Europe.

Only on Friday, for instance, Hungarian Defence Minister Lajos Fur said Hungary would not take part in Warsaw Pact military exercises this year and wanted to leave the Soviet-led alliance by late next year.

Developments like that and the lowering of East-West tensions exemplified by last week's Bush-Gorbachev summit may leave Western leaders breathing easier about security breaches that would have had them tearing their hair out a year ago.

The public is more relaxed about it all with the easing of East-West confrontation — and people who watch these things aren't surprised," said John Steinbruner of the Brookings Institution, another Washington-based think tank.

"The fact is that experts have known for years that Nato is a sieve, riddled with security holes. Perhaps both sides have been too obsessed with military security," he said.

Exchange

Steinbruner and Barry Blechman of the Johns Hopkins Foreign Policy Institute noted that Nato and Warsaw Pact forces now openly exchange information of deployments and movements.

exchange most of that information before," said Steinbruner.

The FBI, whose business in protecting national security has quite another view of developments like the Ramsay case.

"It represents a haemorrhage of sorts of extremely sensitive information. It has caused grave damage to the security of the United States and to all of Nato," bureau spokesman Larry Curtin told Reuters.

Ramsay was in charge of top secret documents at the US Army's Fifth Corps, 8th Infantry Division, in Bad Kreuznach, West Germany, where he was stationed from 1983-1985.

The Justice Department said the mastermind of the spy network, Clyde Lee Conrad, paid Ramsay \$20,000 for classified materials including plans for ground war defence of Central Europe against a Soviet invasion; documents dealing with the use of nuclear weapons by the United States and its Nato allies and military communications technology.

Conrad, a retired army sergeant, was convicted of treason and jailed for life Wednesday by a West German court for selling military secrets to Hungary and Czechoslovakia. He was thought to have received \$2 million for the information.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Encouraging trend continues

Market indices show resilience

THE Alshah index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 40.53 points with an increase of 1.06 points — 2.69 per cent — over last week's average.

The Alshah Index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 53.76 points with an increase of 0.18 point — 0.34 per cent — for the same period, according to Alshah weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 58.55 million shares at a daily average of 11.71 million shares with an increase of 219 per cent from previous week's daily average of 3.67 million shares. Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 1,980 million shares at a daily average of 0.396 million shares with a decrease of 53 per cent from last week's daily average of 0.835 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD22.68 million at a daily average of KD4.54 million, an increase of 234 per cent over last week's daily average of KD1.36 million. The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.092 million at a daily average of KD0.018 million, a decrease of 61 per cent from last week's daily average of KD0.046 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the Banking Sector came first at 59 per cent of total trading against 54 per cent last week. The National Bank of Kuwait had the lead at 32 per cent, followed by the Gulf Bank at 17 per cent and Commercial Bank of Kuwait at 13 per cent. The Investment Sector came second at 23 per cent in which Kuwait Investment Projects Company had the lead at 62 per cent followed by Coast Investment & Development Company at 24 per cent and Commercial Facilities Company at 1 per cent. The Services Sector came third at 11 per cent in which Mobile Telephone Systems Company had the lead at 91 per cent, followed by The Public Warehousing Company at 5 per cent and Kuwait Commercial Markets Complex Company at 4 per cent.

As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain International Bank had the lead at 48 per cent, followed by Sharjah Cement & Industrial Development Company at 30 per cent and Umm Al Quwain Cement Industries Company at 16 per cent.

The market gave signs of increase in activity for the Kuwaiti shares market which was reflected on all three indices while the non-Kuwaiti shares market gave contrary signs. The increase in the Kuwaiti shares market has no justification related to the market or actual development in the listed companies' performance.

These would have had the opposite effect of weakness on the indices as last week's performance.

However, the increase in activity can be attributed to political reasons and will persist part of next week, if this was the reason. After that the market will resume its evaluation of the possible consequences of the government's plan to sell its share in listed companies to the public.

Total government direct ownership in the listed companies amounts to not less than 500 to 600 million Kuwaiti dinars at actual market prices. The available amount for sale will be reduced if the government is not planning to sell all of its shares and will increase if it decides to sell shares its direct ownership in the market.

Because the government owned shares are those of the weaker companies, their prices will be worse off after the sale than shares of the better companies and the concentration on trading in these better shares, which is already high, will increase.

Shares owned by the government at the end of 1989 reached around 37 per cent of total shares invested in 75 per cent of total companies listed in the Kuwaiti shares market.

Kuwait shareholding companies index			
	Wed. 06/06/90	Wed. 30/05/90	Change points
Banking Sector			
The National Bk	133.16	130.52	2.64
The Gulf Bk	31.31	30.36	0.95
The Comm. Bk	23.97	23.97	—

Al Ahli Bk	31.78	30.72	1.06
Bk of K. & M.E.	31.63	30.12	1.51
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	29.35	28.43	0.92
Burgan Bk	26.88	26.44	0.44
Ki Finance House	85.32	82.62	2.69
Sector Index	50.78	49.58	1.20
Inv. Sector			
Kuwait Inv. Co.	13.22	11.57	1.65
Ki. Inv. Co.	8.49	8.59	—
IFA	26.25	22.13	4.12
Comm. Facilities	163.34	160.33	3.03
National Inv.	53.92	53.92	—
Ki. Inv. Proj.	84.39	82.02	2.37
Coast Inv. & Dev.	90.59	84.71	5.88
Sector Index	34.07	32.41	1.66
Ins. Sector			
Ki. Ins. Co.	32.29	32.29	—
Gulf Ins. Co.	23.08	23.08	—
Al Ahlia Ins.	53.38	53.38	—
Waris Ins. Co.	49.14	47.25	1.89
Sector Index	34.19	34.09	0.10
Real Est. Sec.			
Ki. Real Est.	11.09	10.58	0.51
Utd. Realty	5.10	4.91	0.19
Nat. Real Est.	39.42	39.42	—
Pearl of Kt.	65.08	61.90	3.17
Sector Index	15.01	14.59	0.42
Ind. Sector			
Ki. Cmi. Co.	13.50	11.32	2.18
Ref. Ind.	81.26	81.26	—
Gulf Cables	113.13	112.00	1.13
Ki. Pkrm.	53.33	53.33	—
Sector Index	30.90	29.08	1.82
Services Sector			
Ki. Cmptr. Co.	133.92	131.76	2.16
Ki. Cinema Co.	7.80	7.80	—
Puh. W. House Co.	51.52	50.51	1.01
Ki. Comm. M. Co.	36.37	35.45	0.92
M. Tele. Syst.	370.00	355.00	15.00
Sector Index	58.06	57.18	0.87
Food Sector			
L. Trad. & Transp.	24.41	24.41	—
Utd Fisheries	11.05	11.05	—
Ki. Utd Poultry	110.01	110.01	—
Ki. Food Co.	71.26	68.97	2.29
Sector Index	37.27	36.88	0.39
Overall Index	40.53	39.47	1.06

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index

	Wed. 06/06/90	Wed. 30/05/90	Change points
First G. Bk.	263.16	263.16	—
Bah. Int. Bk.	84.14	84.14	—
Bah. M. E. Bk.	84.47	84.47	—
A. Geo. Inv. (Shuaa)	45.45	44.70	0.76
Umm Al Q. Cmi.	15.75	15.38	0.37
Sharjah Cement*	20.01	20.01	—
G. Med. Proj.	13.13	13.13	—
Total Index	53.76	53.58	0.18

*—Basis period 31/12/1989.

—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

Boussena warns of crisis in oil markets

RIYADH, June 9. (AP) The new president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Sadek Boussena, was quoted today as warning of crisis in oil markets in the coming two to three years if Opec nations do not develop their oil production potential.

In an interview with the Saudi Arabian monthly magazine Al Iktisad Wal-Naft, Boussena, who is also dissatisfied with what he considered a "lack of will for dialogue" between oil producing and consuming nations to help stabilise the world market.

He saw a "historic opportunity" for co-operation by industrialised nations and oil companies in helping oil producers to develop their output in line with an expected rise in world demand.

Opec nations are estimated to need some \$50-60 billion to develop oil reserves estimated at two-thirds of the global total.

Without such development over the coming years Opec producers could be outstripped by world demand, leading to a world oil crisis, Boussena said.

He advised that the sudden increase in prices that would be brought about in such a case could be followed by equally "quick and sudden collapses" in prices.

Boussena expressed the view that Opec needed to organise a gradual increase in its reference price of \$18 per barrel. He described the 13 member states of the organisation as "very reasonable" in their attitude to the increase.

He anticipated that if an Opec ministerial council reached agreement on such an increase, it would "not exceed more than \$2..." and would be gradual over a reasonable time span.

The next Opec ministerial session is scheduled for the end of July.

At present, oil prices have sagged below \$15 a barrel in the face of a glut on the world market. Boussena declined to say when he expected the prices to improve, saying "no one can reply accurately to such a question."

But, he pointed out that Opec nations "have all the factors to help raise the prices." He listed anticipated rising world demand, reduction in output by two giant producers, United States and Soviet Union, and reduction from peak production by other oil exporters.

Wall Street mood swings don't sway Fed

Economy expanding too slowly

NEW YORK, June 9. (AP) While Wall Street has dramatically changed its view of the economic outlook in the past couple of months, it is having trouble persuading the Federal Reserve to do the same.

Analysts in the financial world have interpreted recent statistics on the economy as showing a lot less growth than earlier had been supposed.

But the Fed has so far made no move to oblige bulls in the bond and stock markets by adopting more stimulative credit policy and encouraging interest rates to keep falling.

The central bank has sent out a variety of signals in recent days that it isn't gravely worried about any impending recession, in spite of stagnating employment growth over the last three months.

Instead, it still seems to be more concerned with keeping the brakes on inflation, even with recent evidence that upward pressures on the cost of living have eased.

"The latest economic data move the Fed closer to an easing of monetary policy, but it is unlikely that such a move will take place before the third quarter," say economists at the investment firm of Kidder, Peabody and Co.

The Fed has made no change for more than 15 months in its discount rate — the charge it sets on loans to private financial institutions, and its most publicised tool for influencing changes in the flow of money and credit through the banking system. It has stood at 7 per cent since Feb 24, 1989.

In a further reflection of the steady-as-she-goes approach taken by chairman Alan Greenspan, the interest rate on federal funds, or overnight loans between banks, has hovered around 8.25 per cent since January of this year.

To some, this stands as evidence that the Fed has found the correct way to keeping the economy on a path of slow growth despite such disrupting influen-

ces as the savings and loan crisis. At the same time, it has attracted a steady stream of criticism from people in both government and private business who contend that the economy is expanding too slowly.

As hopes ebbed on Wall Street for an early move toward stimulus by the Fed, stock prices tumbled, giving up some of the gains that carried the market to record highs as recently as Monday. The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials dropped 39.59 to 2,862.38.

The New York Stock Exchange Composite index fell 1.98 to 196.05; the Nasdaq Composite index for the over-the-counter market lost 1.27 to 460.87 and the American Stock Exchange Market Value index was down 2.66 at 361.77.

Volume on the Big Board averaged 168.46 million shares a day against 172.62 million the week before. If the Fed is going to get more accommodative, many analysts believe, it could do so in early July once policymakers get a look at another set of employment statistics.

The chances for such a change might be further enhanced with favourable readings on the consumer price index for May and June.

"If the CPI is moderate for another month or two, the monetary authorities are likely to lower the target on the federal funds rate by a notch or two to signal their intent to support the expansion," said Richard Rippe at Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.

Traders in the bond and stock markets indeed appear to be banking on significantly improved inflation news.

Says William Melton at IDS Financial Services in Minneapolis: "Our belief is that the stage is being set for a spell of inflation around 3 per cent — a welcome relief after the 8.5 per cent annualised rate during the first quarter."

Minister calls for new rouble rate on July 1

MOSCOW, June 9. (Reuters) The Soviet currency's official exchange rate should be changed next month to reflect market conditions, Finance Minister Valentin Pavlov said in an interview published yesterday.

"The finance ministry believes that from July 1, without waiting for new wholesale prices, the rouble could be brought into line with its purchasing power as a currency," Pavlov told the government daily Izvestia.

"The official rate of 59 kopecks to the dollar is not the sort of thing which suits our partners."

Pavlov gave no indication to what extent the rate would be modified. A discounted tourist rate one-tenth the official rate was introduced for foreign residents and visitors last November to discourage black market activity.

Convertibility of the rouble is one aim of the government's plan to shift to a market-based economy within five years.

The plan has been attacked in parliament by deputies denouncing the huge price increases it

entails and is likely to be amended when next discussed on Tuesday.

The Ukraine and Byelorussia, two key republics in the country's Slavic Heartland, have already rejected the plan. Russian President Boris Yeltsin has vowed to oppose it and promote an alternative programme focusing on mass denationalisation of industry.

The Interfax news agency reported that the federation council — a body chaired by President Mikhail Gorbachev and including the presidents of all 15 Soviet Republics — would meet on Saturday to discuss the economic programme.

In his interview, Pavlov said he doubted the government would achieve its objective this year of halving the budget deficit to 60 billion roubles (\$96 billion) and called for emergency measures to correct the situation.

"The economy still has a decided tendency to decline and this is reflected in the level of national income," he said.



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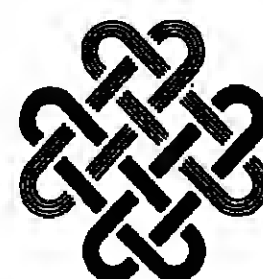
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The week in business

Overall picture of US economy remains lack-lustre

Productivity plunges

NEW YORK, June 9, (UPI): The stock market, fuelled by expectations for lower interest rates, kicked off the week on a new high on Monday with the Dow industrials reaching a record high and came within striking distance of the magical 3000 mark.

Broad-market gauges also set records in sympathy with both the Dow Jones Industrial Average, which soared to 2935.19, and the transportation average, which climbed to all-time high of 1207.85.

But as the market cooled down on profit-taking activities throughout the remainder of the week, the overall picture of the US economy remained lack-lustre.

The Labour Department announced that the productivity of American workers plunged 2.7 per cent in the first quarter, the worst showing since the recession of 1981.

The data — far worse than expected by private analysts — indicated inflation remained a serious threat as wages and benefits rose while output dropped.

Detroit also had a weak showing as US car and light trucks sales dropped 3.3 per cent in late May compared to year-ago levels.

The nine-day results translated into a seasonally adjusted annual selling rate of 7.3 million cars, down from 7.8 million cars a year earlier, and left May

with a 6.7 million-car rate.

Even Donald Trump had to acknowledge he was meeting with major bank lenders concerned over the developer's reported cash flow crisis.

Bankers owed some \$2 billion by Trump have suggested the sale of some assets, including three casinos in Atlantic City, N.J., Prime Manhattan Real Estate, the Trump Princess luxury yacht and the Trump Shuttle Airline linking Boston, New York and Washington.

Trump tried to fight the bad press and indicated all was well with the \$1 billion Taj Mahal casino raking in the highest gaming win in Atlantic City history last month at \$36.2 million.

A flurry of reports about store closing and bankruptcy proceedings confirmed that highly leveraged buyouts stand a significant risk of corporate doom.

Revco D.S. Inc., formerly the nation's largest drugstore chain, announced plans to sell 220 stores in five states to the Jack Eckerd Corp. of Clearwater, Fla., for an undisclosed price. The sale would give Eckerd 1,795 drugstores, ranking it second in size only to the Rite Aid Corp. of Shiremanstown, Pa.

Revco, which operates more than 1,800 stores in 27 states, filed for federal bankruptcy protection to July 1988, after founder Sidney Dworkin

took the company private in December 1986 in a \$1.2 billion leveraged buyout amid optimistic sales forecasts.

Greyhound Lines Inc., which filed for bankruptcy protection from creditors on Monday, also withdrew a May 21 offer to buy back about \$190 million in face amount of debt for about \$86 million in cash.

The bus company, involved in a bitter strike by some 9,300 workers for more than three months, was taken private in a \$350 million leveraged buyout in 1987 and recently missed \$16 million of interest, lease and principal payments.

Bloomington's, owned by bankrupt Federated Department Stores

Inc., continued to feel the burden of the highly leveraged acquisition of its group by Canada's Campeau Corp. The plush retailer prepared to close down two branch stores in Dallas and Stamford, Conn., and Consolidate Store credit operations in a move that will affect nearly 1,100 employees.

The exclusive Texas-based Sakowitz retail chain will be liquidated after failing to attract any buyers at a Bankruptcy Court auction on Wednesday, drawing to a close the posh stores' 88-year history.

The Sakowitz stores are 80 per cent owned by L.J. Hooker Corp., an Australian conglomerate in its own bankruptcy proceedings, which made a

leveraged foray into US retailing in the 1980s with the acquisitions of Sakowitz, B. Altman Co. and Bonwit Teller. Both Altman's and Bonwit Teller were liquidated within the last six months.

Apparel sales, which had enjoyed healthy retail revenue gains for the past year, fell off sharply in May as many of the nation's merchants reported poor showings they blamed on bad weather.

For most big merchants, comparable-store sales, which exclude receipts of stores not open one year earlier and are generally considered the best measure of a retailer's performance, did not keep pace with inflation.

Fed official to resign

NEW YORK, June 9, (Reuters): Manuel Johnson, the vice-chairman of the Federal Reserve Board and an influential economist who has backed chairman Alan Greenspan in the fight to stamp out inflation, said yesterday he will leave the US central bank for a job in the private sector.

Analysts said his departure in August gives President George Bush a chance to appoint a central bank governor friendlier to his aim of keeping the American economy on course and less concerned with inflation.

"The administration could choose someone who would support growth via lower interest rates as opposed to a governor who'd battle inflation down to the last basis point," said William Sullivan of Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.

Johnson, a Fed governor since February 1986 and vice-chairman since August that year, is viewed as a centrist on the board — neither a conservative nor a liberal in credit policy. His departure was viewed as amicable.

He said in his resignation letter: "The time has come to return to private life."

A key Fed member who always advocated closer international monetary ties, Johnson will leave to chair a private group dealing with economic policy facing the Group of Seven industrial nations.

He will leave the central bank on August 3 when his term as vice-chairman expires to head the new private sector group, the G-7 council.

Businessmen can do more trade deals with Gulf

Austrian exports to Kuwait set to rise

VIENNA, June 9, (Kuna): Austrian businessmen can do more trade and clinch more deals from countries in the Arabian Gulf, particularly Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, over the coming few years, a conference of Austrian trade representatives in Arab states was told here today.

The conference, held at the Federal Commerce Chamber here, is tackling trade relations between Austria and the Middle East and Arabian Gulf states. It is attended by Austria's trade representatives in the region.

The gathered trade officials

underlined in this respect that enhancement of political tranquility and stabilisation of oil prices remained a determining factor in promotion of trade exchange in the desired form.

Heads of Austrian trade representations in Kuwait, Riyadh, Amman, Abu Dhabi, Baghdad, Damascus and Cairo noted that despite a drop of Austrian exports to the area from foodstuffs and other consumer items over past years, sales are on the rise for Austrian semi-finished products and patent rights.

Franz Otto Kanabich, Austria

trade counsellor stationed in Kuwait, saw the change in the type of Austrian exports to the region natural judging by current international trade trends and efforts exerted by Arabian Gulf countries to diversify their economy sources and reduce dependence on oil.

He said 1989 saw an end of a downward trend in Austrian exports to Kuwait, adding he expects products shipped to Kuwait to double this year in spite of a 12 per cent rise in prices of Austrian goods over the past two years as a result of depreciation

of the Kuwaiti dinar against the schilling.

Kanabich indicated that implementation, from early this year, of two important trade contracts concluded with Kuwait last summer would noticeably increase Austrian exports until the end of this year.

Without elaborating on the contracts, the trade representative recommended fields of maintenance services, spare parts, medical equipments, textiles and water treatment as potential sectors to upgrade volume of Austrian exports to Kuwait.

SEC chief going on the road again

NEW YORK, June 9, (AP): US Securities and Exchange Commission chairman Richard C. Breeden is taking his message of international co-operation among stock market regulators on the road again — to Luxembourg, Germany and Hungary.

The head of the federal agency that regulates stocks, bonds and other securities said Thursday he'll travel to Europe later this month to sign an international co-operation agreement in Luxembourg and help reopen the long dormant Budapest Stock Exchange.

He also said an advisory committee on East European markets "representing some of the best and the brightest" on Wall Street will hold its first meeting in Washington next week to discuss ways of

helping the infant free market economies of former iron curtain countries.

Since taking office last October, Breeden has travelled to Japan, France and the Netherlands to hammer out co-operation agreements with foreign securities regulators.

High-level officials from the Soviet Union, Hungary and Poland have visited SEC headquarters in Washington — some delegations more than once.

"Together the countries of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union represent a potential market of 400 million people," Breeden said in a speech to the New York Financial Writers Association.

"Helping these countries create free economic markets is the right thing to do," he added.

Investment agreement

ALGIERS, June 9, (Reuters): Algeria has approved an agreement with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (Opic) of the United States designed to encourage US private investment, Algerian radio said yesterday.

The agreement, initiated a year ago in Washington during meetings of a joint economic commission, was approved by the council of ministers on Wednesday night and awaits formal signing, a US official said.

A close score and the V2500 pulls almost level

SEVERAL Middle East and European airlines soon to decide which engines will power their new medium-range aircraft, are watching a big game of catch-up being played by one company that hopes to win some of their multi-million dollar orders.

This year the international V2500 engine has outstripped its rival by nearly four-to-one in orders to power the next generation of 150-180 seat airlines, specifically Airbus A320/A321 and McDonnell Douglas MD-90 aircraft.

As a result, 545 or almost half of 1,108 of these engines on firm order or option and yet to be delivered, will have V2500s. And the engine's total order book (including deliveries so far) of US\$7 billion is three times more than it was a year ago.

International Aero Engines (IAE), the Rolls-Royce led consortium that developed the engine, won the nearly four-to-one advantage because 150 airlines with its engines were ordered against 40 with the CFM56-3 powerplant.

In January, two airlines (one in Japan and one in the USA) and a major American leasing company, between them ordered 80 MD-90s. In March, Lufthansa and German airline recognised as one of the most technically-wise in the world, chose the engine for 40 A321s. Last week Mexican Airlines ordered 30 A320s to operate in the harsh conditions of Mexico's "hot and high" airports.

Forty V2500-powered A320s have flown and the next customer to receive

them will be Egypt Air at the end of this year. Meanwhile, IAE is looking for a Middle East overhaul centre for the V2500.

Interavia, the Geneva-based newsletter, reported last week that the V2500 in its first year of service carried well over a million passengers without a single engine-caused in-flight shutdown. Its repair shop visit rate was 0.049 per thousand hours which, Interavia said, was a key indicator of its reliability.

China tries to tap expertise

Reformers revive market plans

SHANGHAI, China, June 9, (AP): China's reformers are cautiously reviving plans to develop stock and bond markets one year after political turmoil gave conservatives the upper hand and halted most innovation.

Chinese bankers and securities dealers huddled for three days this week with foreign counterparts at an extraordinary seminar about how capitalist securities markets operate and their advantages.

Participants said China is years away from creating a modern, Western-style market with computerised transfers, futures options, a wide range of stocks and bonds and a host of buyers and sellers. For socialist China, the concept of creating wealth by means other than direct labour remains politically suspect.

But Western and Chinese sources said just holding the seminar showed that government officials and think-tanks committed to reform have regained some influence — if only because serious economic problems have forced conservatives to consider reformist solutions.

"The biggest single problem they face is they need money," said one Western businessman, speaking on condition of anonymity. Securities markets, he noted, are one way of turning private savings into capital investment. "That is why plans to develop a market are 'back on track,'" he said. "The direction's the same, the speed may be slower."

The seminar was the largest effort to tap foreign expertise on the subject since the 1986 visit of a Wall Street delegation led by New York Stock Exchange chairman John J. Phelan Jr.

This time, the 36 foreign participants included a senior vice-president of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, Shiro Uramashu; Eoghan McMillan, chairman of Hong Kong's Futures Exchange and F.T.F. Yuen, chief executive of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

Sponsors included the state commission for restructuring the economy, once closely allied to former Communist party chief Zhao Ziyang. Zhao was purged last year in a power struggle touched off by massive student-led protests for democracy. Many of his advisors also were purged, demoted or frightened into silence.

But economic reform has found new support in Shanghai, long one of China's most politically reliable cities. Mayor Zhu Rongji, widely regarded as a pragmatist, needs capital to modernise the city's crumbling infrastructure.

He also recently unveiled plans for an ambitious industrial and high-tech development zone called Pudong. It will need at least \$10 billion in investment over the next decade.

"This conference may really begin to put the Shanghai foreign participant."



Extensive training

THE Gulf Bank launched recently a series of training seminars on people management and marketing and selling skills.

In its search for uniform culture and style, and looking ahead at the new decade of the nineties and the challenge of maintaining its competitive edge through excellence of customer service, The Gulf Bank is organising 15 training seminars and workshops which will extend over a period of two months involving a total 365 people.

Based on its firm belief that excellence of service can only be achieved through the excellence of its people, the theme and message of these seminars is service excellence from top down. Working on the principle that effective management practice and the consequent management of change is best achieved through top down approach as the lead has to flow from top management down.

These seminars which involved senior and middle management are being conducted by Dr Abdo Bardawil, the eminent training consul-

tant on the themes "Our business people" and "Our roles are in our branches" within the ongoing commitment to always finding new ways to help.

Naturally these seminars were planned and promoted by the Bank's Manpower Development Unit in Human Resources Development Division.

A series of four other seminars are being held, this month with managers down the line on aspects of interpersonal skills and leadership, skill development, teamwork and similar themes. This will be supplemented by a further nine seminars on marketing and selling skills to be held this month. The focus of all of the seminars/workshops is with the bank's customers in mind. Linked to this is the bank's stated purpose to excel in the quality of the service it provides to all its customers in the markets it serves, realising that this can only be achieved through the excellence of its people. Picture above shows training consultant with other officials.

Plans to meet the needs of consumers

Soviets must achieve market economy

MOSCOW, June 9, (Reuters): President Mikhail Gorbachev said on Friday the Soviet Union must press ahead with far-reaching changes to create a market economy, lifting the country from stagnation after decades of centralised planning.

Gorbachev, who faces growing opposition to the Soviet government's economic reform plans, told the nation he was convinced ordinary people would come to recognise that only a market system could give them the life they wanted.

In quiet but determined mood, Gorbachev told a news conference televised live across the Soviet Union about his drastic plans to meet the needs of consumers.

"The majority of our society has come to the conclusion that we need very deep changes in our economy," he said. "The market is the environment which will encourage productivity and quality. Our conclusion is that it is essential."

The president spoke of a reform package of more than 30 laws and decrees that would set up "a developed financial and credit network of commercial banks" as well as security and commodity exchanges, among other measures.

Referring to state-fixed prices, many unchanged for decades, he said: "We must put all prices in line with the realities of the economy and bring them up to world levels. If not, how can we open our defenceless market to the world? Foreign businessmen would leave us naked within two weeks."

Gorbachev delivered his remarks sitting alongside Britain's Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, one of the Western world's chief apostles of the market system, who is on a visit to the Soviet Union.

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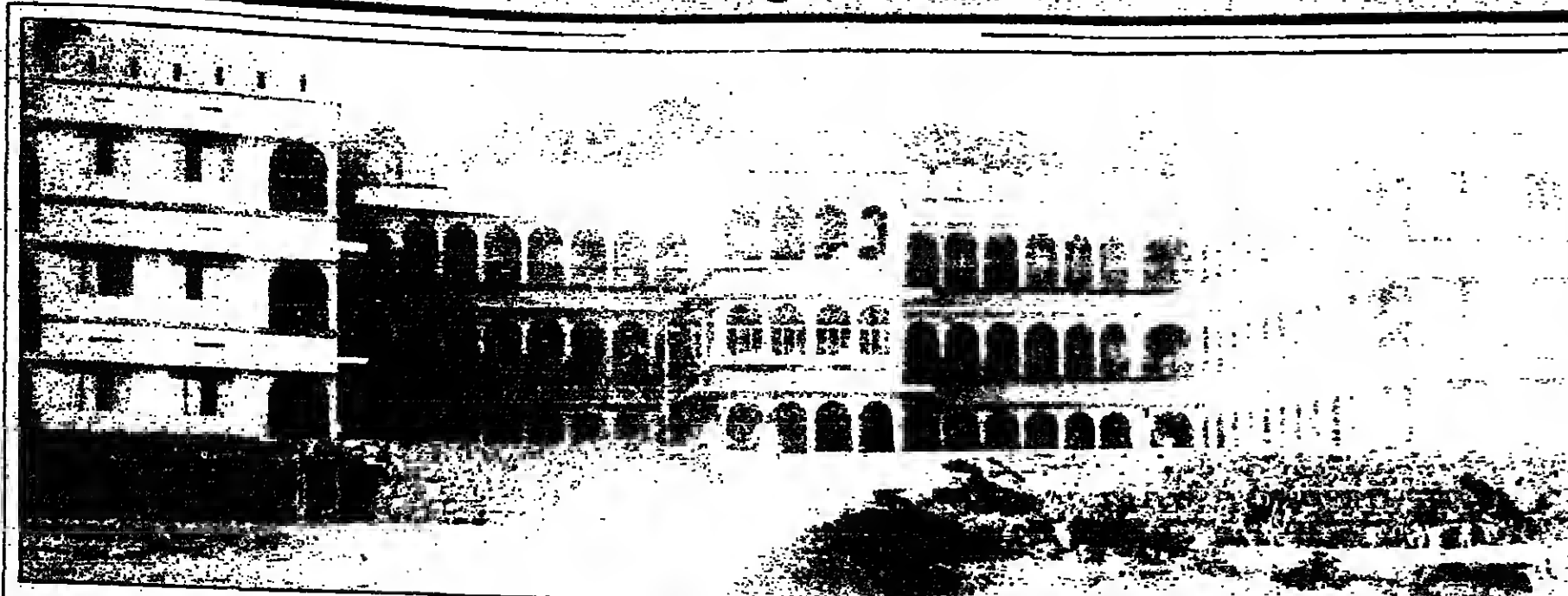
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Going Places



The Malik Bin Dinar Complex in Trichur.

Islamic scholar visits Kuwait

SOUTH India now has a cultural and religious complex catering to the needs of thousands of Muslims, according to Sayyed Abdul Rahman Al Azhari, an Islamic scholar who is on a private visit to Kuwait.

Al Azhari, told Arab Times the Malik Bin Dinar Complex is located in Trichur, Kerala's cultural capital. It has been named after the man who introduced Islam to southern India some 1,400 years ago.

More than 500 students, including orphans, study Islam and learn Arabic, including the Holy Quran.

Sayyed Abdul Rahman Al Azhari, who took his master's degree from Cairo's Al Azhar University, first taught in Saudi Arabia and then in Libya. He has more than 25 years experience when he was selected the director of the new Islamic complex in Trichur.

Al Azhari said the complex

was built with "generous help" from Kerala Muslims, both in Kerala and those living in the Gulf. But a constant flow of funds would be required to meet the day-to-day expenses.

Commenting on Muslims in India, he said they get "ample freedom" to practice their religion in the secular nation. Asked to comment on BJP's (a Hindu political party) to scrap constitutional safeguards for minority communities, he said: "It is a political ploy".

India has over 120 million Muslims and their cultural contribution to the country is immense. "India has a mixed culture and the country will never give up its secular character," he said.

The patrons of the newly opened Islamic institute are former minister Z. R. Ansari and K. R. Narayan. Indian Muslim League president Ibrahim Sulaiman Seth also supports the project.



Sayyed Abdul Rahman Al Azhari

Kuwait Players

Winston re-elected chairman

KUWAIT PLAYERS are back in action and promise a full season for the 1990/91 year. This includes musicals, dramas and pantomimes.

The group's newly re-elected chairman Ken Winston said he hopes to revive the garden fete tradition, which was a huge success for several years. The fete was cancelled last year, much to everyone's disappointment.

Winston, who has previously chaired the amateur theatrical group, said the Players are working full steam to bring back the garden fete in the grounds of the British embassy.

He has also asked our readers to contribute hooks, household articles and clothes for the sale at the fete.

Jukebox, a musical featuring rock, pop and jazz, will also be staged later this year. Winston is looking for musicians and singers of all ages. Dancers are also required. Jukebox 6 will be performed sometime in September at Salmiya cinema. (For details see What's On.)

Also in the pipeline is the annual pantomime; this year it would be "Cinderella". A number of theatrical productions are also in the planning stages.

The Kuwait Players recently elected the 1990/91 committee. Apart from Winston, other members are Hamish Dow (vice-chairman); Glenis Muckle (treasurer); Dave Bromley (technical manager) and Elaine O'Shannessy (wardrobe mistress). Malcolm Walker, Alan Weller and David Dorrington were elected "ordinary members".

All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.



Kuwaiti musicians entertaining guests.

All smiles

KUWAIT Hotels Company recently hosted a "Thank You" party for its patrons at the Messilah Beach Hotel. Senior executives, travel agents and officials attended the party, entitled "Smile Together".

This was the second "Thank You" party. The first was held in January.

Kuwaiti and Scottish music, food and plenty of fun was provided.

The Kuwait Hotels Company runs the International Hotel, the Messilah Beach Hotel, Airport Hotel, Khiran Resort. They also own hotels in Egypt.



Messilah Beach Hotel general manager Tony Barlow addressing guests.



The Scottish musicians arrive for the party.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.40 Good Morning
- 9.15 Nahia Wa Saleh: cartoon serial
- 9.40 Iftah Ya Simsim
- 10.10 Good Morning
- 10.30 Ahlam Al Zahira: Arabic serial: part 2, featuring Majdi Wahba, Karima Mukhtar, Madina Hamdi, Ibrahim Al Shami
- 11.15 News Summary
- 12.00 Al Raseef Al Barad: Arabic serial, part 2, featuring Mahmood Saeed, Shafiqah Al Tall, Fuad Al Shomili
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.05 Songs
- 1.30 Sanavar: cartoon serial
- 2.15 Ailah Bu Jassoum: Kuwaiti serial: ep. 2, featuring Hussain Qattan, Abdul Wahab Dosari, Moosa Al Hazim
- 3.00 Hadith Deeni: Hadith wa Imaan. Religious programme.
- 3.35 Ail Laila Wa Laila: Part One. Starring: Raghad, Midhat Saleh, Muna Abdul Ghani, Mimi Jamal
- 4.00 The Terror Notts: English feature film, starring Simon Bonner, Joan Bruno
- 5.30 Sally: cartoon serial
- 6.30 Kan Ya Ma Kana: children's serial. Part one. Starring: Samiya Jazai, Ridhwan Aqili, Nadine.
- 7.30 Agricultural Magazine
- 8.00 Diwanayat Shura Al Naht: poetry session
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Al Rajul Wal Qataar: Arabic serial
- 10.35 Variety
- 11.00 Makhloof Ismaha Al



Matlock, 8.40 on KTV 2

- Mara'a "Al Aashiqah". Starring: Farouk Fishawi, Shihra, Salah Rashwan, Huda Zaki.
- 12.10 News summary
- 12.15 World News via Satellite
- 12.30 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 The Bears: cartoon serial
- 6.30 The Beachcombers: "Free Ascent". Pat and Graham discover a shipwreck and plan to salvage it...
- 7.00 The Politics of Food: "Brazil". Documentary.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 Matlock: Ben's client, a journalist, pleads guilty against his advice.
- 9.30 Body Matters: "What Is Your Poison?". Tonight's episode examines the effects of alcohol on the human body.
- 10.00 The Two of Us: "Basketball Gabby". New series.
- 10.30 Best-Seller: "Always Afternoon". Romance

between an Australian woman and a German prisoner of war.

12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Aeualite/Closedown
union". Hermann has a difference of opinion with his brother. Lily tries to mediate.

Comedy.

8.00 News in English

8.40 Beauty and the Beast: "The Reckoning".

9.30 Bill Cosby Show: "Denise Kendall: Singles Counsellor".

10.00 Just for the Record: record-breaking feats are captured on camera for this show.

10.30 Thursday Night Movie: "Someone is Watching".

12.00 News in Brief

12.10 Magazine D'Aeualite/Closedown

Sports TV 6/45

8.30 Opening

8.40 UAE World Cup message

9.00 Sports analysis

9.30 Highlights of the match between USA and Czechoslovakia

9.55 Live: Brazil vs Sweden

12.00 Recording: W. Germany vs Yugoslavia

WHAT'S ON

Social

Irish reception

June 16: Saturday. SAS Hotel, 6-8 pm. All Irish nationals are invited to a reception which will be hosted in honour of the Irish foreign minister and Irish ambassador. They will be visiting Kuwait later this month. For details contact Marwan Salamah — 2402628/9; or Ms V. Al Mutawa — 5621701/5622701.

Overseas students party
June 27: 6 pm. British Council will hold a reception for all students who will be studying in the UK this autumn. The party will be for all students who have been offered a place at any university, polytechnic or college in Britain.

A set of briefing notes will be given to each student. Refreshments will be served. Students going to the UK are asked to call in to collect free admission cards from Kate or Lix in the Education Office, British Council, 2 Al Arabi St., Mansouriya.

Ecole Francaise
June 10: 7 pm. The Ecole Francaise, Surrah, will hold an End of Academic Year Party and prize distribution at the Jamil School.

Festivals

At Ramada Al Salam

Al Bender Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight.

Al Mawardi Open-Air Cafe: open from 6 pm to midnight.

Al Gandoul Grill Garden: open after 6 pm; grilled food.

Friday brunch: 12 noon to 3 pm, ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

At the Meridien
MANGO Festival: until June 14. At Fingian and Al Waha. La Brasserie Restaurant. Thai Corner: Saturday night. Cowboy Night: Every Sunday, with live country music. Chinese Corner: Monday night feature.

Greek Tayerna; Mediterranean magic with bouzouki music. Indonesian corner: on Wednesdays; food prepared in front of you.

Jazz Night: New Orleans atmosphere on Thursday night.

Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day.

Versailles: Business lunch; and a la carte dinner.

At the Messilah Beach
Al Mubarakiah: open around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine.

Al Jewherah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band.

Al Berdowneh: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

At the Plaza:
Al Dallah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu.

Lolouwah Corner: snacks and refreshing summer drinks.

Marco Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

At the Holiday Inn
Al Ahmedi Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets — Continental and Oriental cuisine.

Al Andalus Supper Club: Arabic Nite, every Thursday; Arabic band entertains guests.

Friday Family Luncheon: Disney fantasy on Fridays.

At the SAS
Bisretto: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music.

Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner.

Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezzeh buffet.

Clock: snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

Musical
Jukebox 6
June 12: 7-9 pm. Kuwait Players hold preliminary auditions for musicians and singers, all ages, at the Kuwait English School, K.G. Dept., Salwa. The show will be produced by Ken Winston and Glenis Muckle with musical directors Oliver Lister and Liza Hoy. It will be presented at October end in Salmiya Cinema. Anyone interested in this production is invited to come along to the auditions. For details ring: 5740256/7; 5625316; 5615357; 5731782.

Beat Festival
July 12: Coming up next month is the Beat Festival featuring such bands as Neighbuzz, Hurricane, Symphony. The show will be performed at the Anak Restaurant, opposite G.P.O. More details later.

Murchana
June 15: Murchana, a musical evening featuring Bengali, Hindi and semi-classical songs at Meridien Hotel. For reservations call 5640389 after 5.30 pm; 4893424.

British Council
June 16/17: 6.30 pm. "84 Charing Cross Road", a universally acclaimed film based on the true story of Helene Haniff (Anne Bancroft) will be shown. It tells the story of a 20-year love affair with the staff of a second-hand bookshop. For reservations call 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Hanafi Al Abahu (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Huda Ramzi, Farouk Fishawi

Al Salmiya
Al Raqassah Wal Siyaseen (Arabic)
Starring: Nabila Obaid, Salah Qabil

Al Hamra
Khittah Al Shaitan (Arabic)
Starring: Karam Mutawa, Suhair Ramzi

Drive-In
Al Raqassah Wal Siyaseen (Arabic)

Al Firdous
Kasam Vardi Ki (Hindi)
Starring: Jeetendra, Bhanu Priya

Fahadeel Open-Air
Parinda (Hindi)
Starring: Anil Kapoor, Nana Patekar

Al Fahadeel
Super Master

Al Jahra
Raastey Pyar Ke (Hindi)

Granada
Tezaab (Hindi)

Salaikhbat
The Grove

Al Jleeb
Jagrata (Malayalam)

Ahmadi Drive-In
Time Burst

PRAYERS

Fajr 3.13 am

Dhuhr Prayer 11.47

Asr 3.21 pm

Maghreb 6.47

Isha 8.18



The foreign ministers of Oman and Kuwait recently visited SAS Hotel's Al Boom restaurant. Picture shows Foreign Ministry undersecretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen (left) with Omani Foreign Minister Yusef Ben Alawi and his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Sabah Al Jaber Al Sabah.



Summer Rock '90 concert was recently held by the High Spirits and Seventh Sky bands at a local school in Kuwait. The two bands, including Phil Thomas of High Spirits and vocalist June Woolston, are no newcomers on the music scene and drew a considerable crowd. Above: some of the musicians who participated in the concert.

FILIPINO DIGEST

In celebration of the 92nd anniversary of Philippine independence

Pistang Pinoy '90



Flasik women in their parade costumes.



The Ambassador, Dr. Tamano.



The winner of the beauty contest, Cherry Andong with Mr & Mrs. Tamano.



A joyful song to get things going.

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

THE Philippine embassy and some 15 Filipino organisations in Kuwait have joined hands to celebrate the country's Independence Day at a carnival — the biggest such event mounted by the Filipino community this year.

They braved the heat last Friday and turned out in hundreds to parade, sing, fly kites, sell handicrafts, play sports, and sway to the disco beat at sunset.

By mid-morning the mood at the event that started at 7.30 am at the Messilah Beach Resort was so jolly and relaxed that even the embassy protocol officer lost his inhibitions, picked up the microphone and belted out "I Just Called to Say I Love You" to the best of his ability.

The event started with a parade representing different groups in the community. The most imaginative costumes came from Flask members who wore head-dress made of

laminated paper and skirts made out of coloured paper strips. A show they mounted known as Ati-Ati Han is a tourist attraction in Calibo province in the Philippines where it is performed annually in the month of May.

The Philippine Ambassador Dr. Mauryag Mohammad Tamano in his opening speech called on his countrymen working in Kuwait to be loyal and sincere to their Kuwaiti employers as part of "our resolve to make the Kuwaitis our perpetual friends".

His message was appropriately followed by a patriotic song performed by Mher Lumbang and Jimmy Cayanay of Kabayan restaurant, a venue where young Filipino talent is tested on the patrons.

While the tug-of-war drew groans from competitors and cheers from fans the Filipino band from Fahahel "The Ultimate Band" — the name that reflects better what they would like to become than what they are — entertained with their repertoire of popular songs. I have yet to attend a Filipino function

which does not include a beauty contest of some kind. On Friday it was Mutyu ng Pistang Pinoy '90 or Miss Fiesta Filipinas '90. There was no shortage of girls aiming for the title which finally went to Cherry Andong of Kirby Building Systems who competed with another 27 contestants.

On a more serious note an appeal went to the community to submit nominations for the 10 outstanding Filipinos in Kuwait. Grace Covarubias, the Flaskik president, said nominees should be able to show evidence of excellence in their profession or work in the following areas of activity: hotel and restaurant business, medical and allied professions, community service, service workers among holders of visas No. 18 and 20, sports achievements, professional achievements or cultural promotions. All nominees should have good moral character, must have stayed in Kuwait for at least two years and must not be among those who have already been awarded a similar title by the embassy.



Flaskik president, Grace Covarubias.



The United Sisters Association.



Some of the guests.



SPOK

Embassy Corner

An open letter to all my friends

Dear Friends,

Before anything, allow me to start this letter by sincerely thanking Arab Times for this opportunity to bare my heart and reach out to all of you on the eve of my departure.

I am leaving Kuwait with a heavy heart, cherishing all the fond memories I shared with all of you during my almost four years of stay here, and knowing that I will be missing all of you oh so dearly.

"Life in the foreign service is full of excitement and anticipation. When I first landed on Kuwait soil, I did not know anything about the country except my initial impressions that its climate was warmer than where I came from (during the summer), and that the state grew out of deserts and oases such as we heard from the stories of the 1001 Nights and other similar books.

Through the years, I learned

that the treasures of Kuwait are varied and bountiful, but the richest treasure I found lay in the people — a harmonious blending of East, West, North, and South cultures.

Through those years, I learned that the Filipino community grew from a handful in the early 1970s, to such proportion as to reach almost 40,000 today. Their status in this country is as varied as the

island from which they come, from which I come. My heart went out to the unfortunate sector, which though numbering minimally, still meant a lot to me personally, since each Filipino shares a part of my blood. Their pain was my pain, the injustice done to a number of them was an injustice done to me. At the same time, I was saddened to learn that the Kuwaiti system is for what is true, what is just. I especially salute HH the Amir

the Crown Prince and Premier and all concerned Kuwaiti officials for their consistently humanitarian consideration of the Filipinos' problems. The embassy's appeals for clemency or amnesty have always been kindly looked upon and listed to. For this, I am thankful. Community activities were also organised purposely to serve the cause of this unfortunate sector.

I also wish to say that I have found solace and comfort from the other members of the international community in Kuwait, especially my colleagues from Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the members of the diplomatic community, who have always readily extended unqualified support and assistance for whatever needs I had, whatever problems I encountered, whether on official matters or otherwise.

Finally, I will be forever grateful and indebted for the support, love, and affection given to me by the members of my official family in Kuwait, the staff of the Philippine embassy, under the wise and gracious stewardship of all past and present Chief of Mission who served and is still serving as Philippine Ambassador to the State of Kuwait.

I hope that all of us, and this I'd like to especially

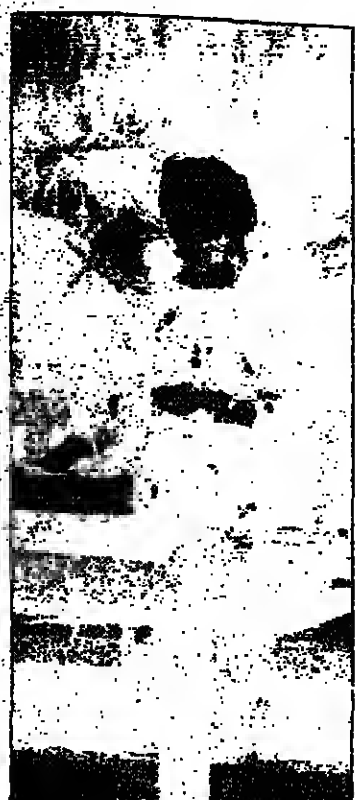
address to my Filipino compatriots, will always be guided in our thoughts and in our actions by our national pledge: to serve God, our country and people first before ourselves. Be proud to be a Filipino!

Mabuhay ang Pilipino!
Mabuhay ang Kuwait!
Thank you to all of you wonderful people.

Olivia Valera-Palala,
Consul-General.

Handwritten signature: Olivia Valera-Palala

Gift shops



Waiting



Clothes, toys and food



Bobby's Gift Shop



Interested shoppers



T-shirts and cassettes

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

DESPITE the unpleasant hot weather that causes all and sundry to sizzle under the sun and hampers people from venturing outdoors, large groups of Filipinos were enjoying their weekend yesterday in celebrating their National Day.

Although slight dry winds were blowing and many were wiping out their faces with tissues, Filipinos found no obstacle in converging at the Messilah Resort to stand, sit or chat. Many wearing hats or tying their foreheads with colourful scarfs were swaying to the beats of music by a band centred near the swimming pool.

Many couples coming in large numbers holding food baskets were searching for vacant seats under big umbrellas, while others were busy selling their country's products displayed at various stalls.

Bobby Madayog who was sitting with his wife Suzan said that he was "the first Filipino in Kuwait in 1980."

Madayog, the president of the United Sisters Association (recently formed by Filipina domestic helpers) said that he was here for 16 years and now he and his wife have their own shop "Bobby Gift Shop" here at Fahd Al Salem Street. The shop sells products of their country.

Madayog who began his working career in Kuwait as a chef at a five-star hotel is "planning to work here for another ten years." He said that many Filipinos here find it very practical to come and enjoy shopping due to our reasonable prices. He added that everything here is quite easy "except for the high rent of the shop and accommodation."

Suzan Campus Madayog who is working as a beautician said that she has been working here for seven years. She added that Filipinos are fond of music and love enjoying their time.

"Filipinos are hard workers who also know how to spend their leisure time. Here they help each other and look after their people."

Suzan, mother of two children, said that she helps her husband in their shop in addition to her job as a beautician in Al Dahiya Co-op.

Elveria Antonino, 27-year-old, said that it was her fifth year working in Kuwait. "Working here is not a problem but sometimes employers make things harder by delaying their payment or not allowing them to have a day off."

She added that it is a good opportunity for her to go out and enjoy the celebrations. "Sometimes you feel homesick, but once you meet with your people it lifts your spirits up," Antonino said.

Filcheck pre-independence day activities

THE Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (Filcheck), with all its members and officers, braved the heat to participate in this year's Philippine Independence Day Celebration held Friday, June 8, 1990 at the Messilah Beach resort organised by the Philippine embassy.

During the Civic Parade, the Club presented the teams competing in its 1990 Inter-Commercial Team Chess Tournament namely: JM Int'l, Far East Bank/Club Int'l, Hatid Ligaya Door-to-Door, Al Nuzha Garage, Kirby Bldg. Systems, Al Rashed Freight and Kabayan Restaurant.

Of the five children that played Kasparov chess computer in the "Beat Kasparov and Win a Prize Contest" sponsored by Aadawiah Universal Electronics, four reached the 10-move category and won a prizemoney: Earl Bantayan (9 yrs. old), Hashim Aliyeh (7 yrs. old), Elizabeth Ventura (9 yrs. old) and Christian Dewitt (10 yrs. old).

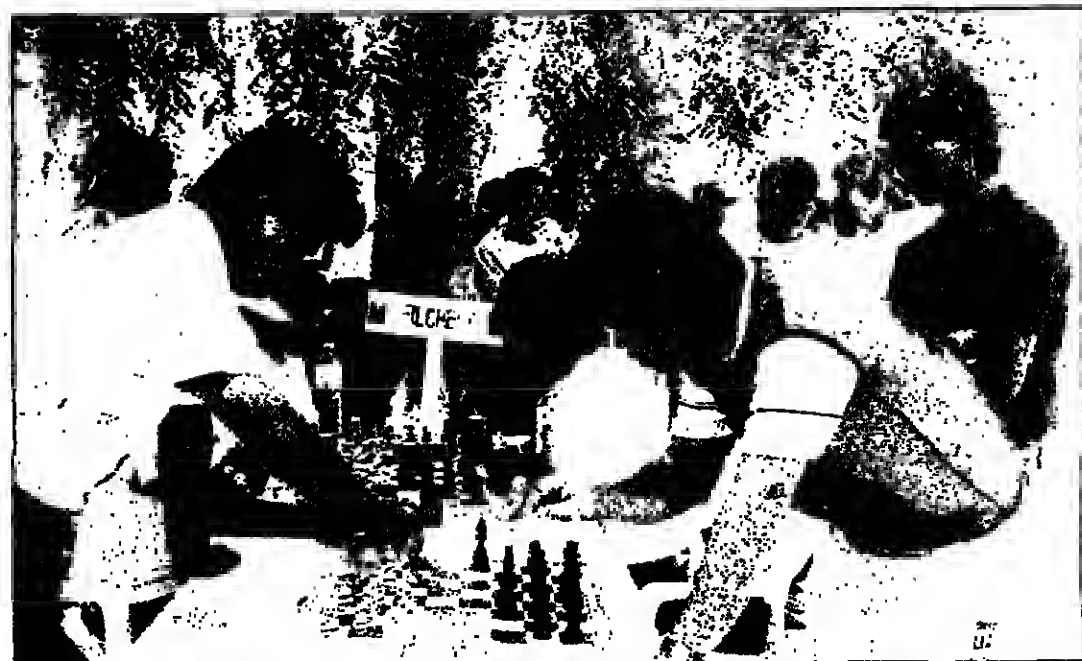
In the adult category, six ladies and nine gentlemen played Kasparov and claimed their consolation prizes for the 10 and 15-move categories i.e., ladies must at least play up to 10 moves while men 15 moves without being beaten. Three were able to beat the computer namely: Fred Bantayan, Ricardo Bellen and Jess Hernandez.

Ingy Vendiola and Gil Opiana Jr. blitzed their way to victory in the action-packed Rakan Chess Blitz tournament and received a set each of Rakan 5000 and 3000 video game computers from Rakan Electronics. Second place went to Chito Barrios and Jigs Aodisen of group A & B respectively.

In a related development, Kirby chess team muse, Cherry Andong was selected the "RH. Pistang Pinoy" from among the 28 equally beautiful muses of the Filipino organisations and companies that participated in the parade.



Lady contestant trying her wits with the Kasparov chess computer.



Action from Rakan Chess Blitz tournament.

Meanwhile, the final judging of the Club's own "Search for Ms. Filcheck 1990" will be next month during the awarding ceremony of the on-going tournament.

ARAB TIMES congratulates winners in games and contests held during the all-day celebration. They are:

J.J. Areno, 1st place in Palo Sebo children's game, Christian Alegre, 2nd place in Palo Sebo children's

game. Richard Norman, Sarah Nacario, and Martha Loris del Rosario, Hit the Pot children's game. Pampanga Community team, Cou D'tug (men), Filipino Cultural Club, Cou D'tug (women), Albert Nanato, smallest kite and 1st place in Kite Flying Contest. Pete Boco,

highest kite in Kite Flying Contest. Danny Inpiola, 2nd place in Kite Flying Contest. Nel Calsardo, 1st place in Barong Tagalog competition. Homer Mesina, 2nd place in Barong Tagalog competition. Jenny Brosoto, Disco Queen. Medal Cruz, Disco King.



MGA MAHAL NAMING MGA KABABAYAN. KAMI'Y NAPARITO PARA BIGYAN KO KAYO NG MAGANDANG KASIYAHAN SA IKA 10 NG HUNYO SA GANAP NG 6:30 NG GABI. TAYO'Y MAGKITA-KITA SA "ICE SKATING RINK."

TONIGHT WILL BE OUR LAST SHOW. COME AND SEE US. WITH LOVE "NANETTE, RAYMOND & DING-DONG."

WELCOME TO MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA

SPONSORED BY COCA-COLA & BOSE.

You Can't Beat The Feeling!

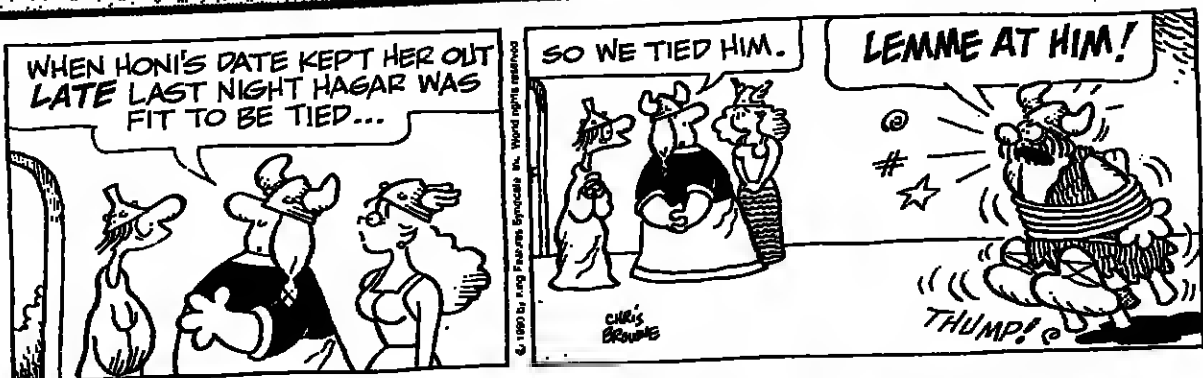


LEISURE

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & John Deane



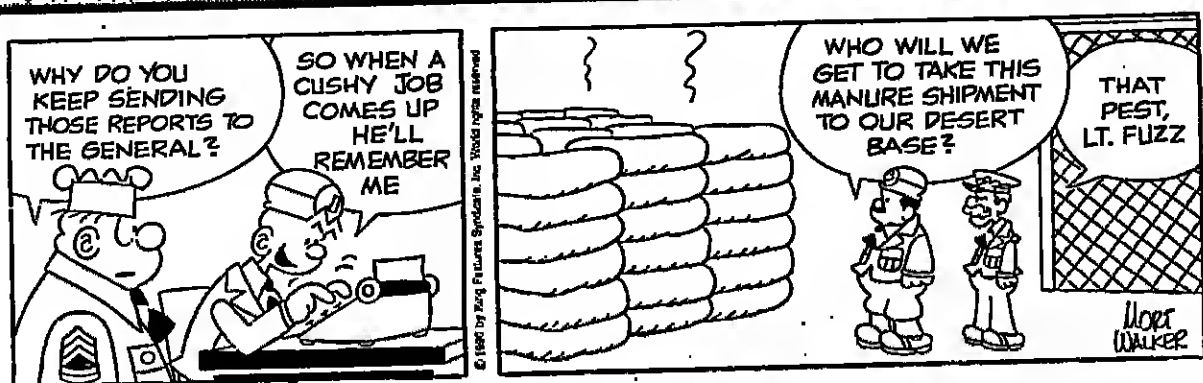
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dick Bruthuis



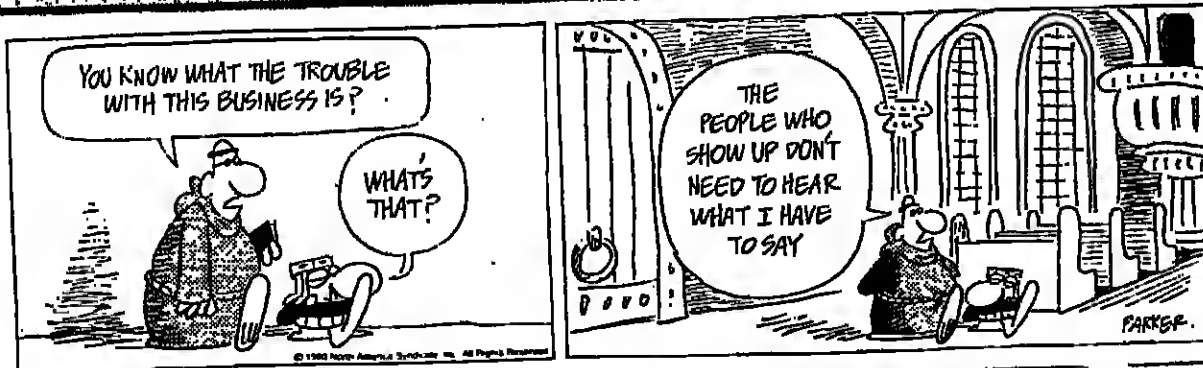
JOATHA CRUMB — By Bill Fiebert



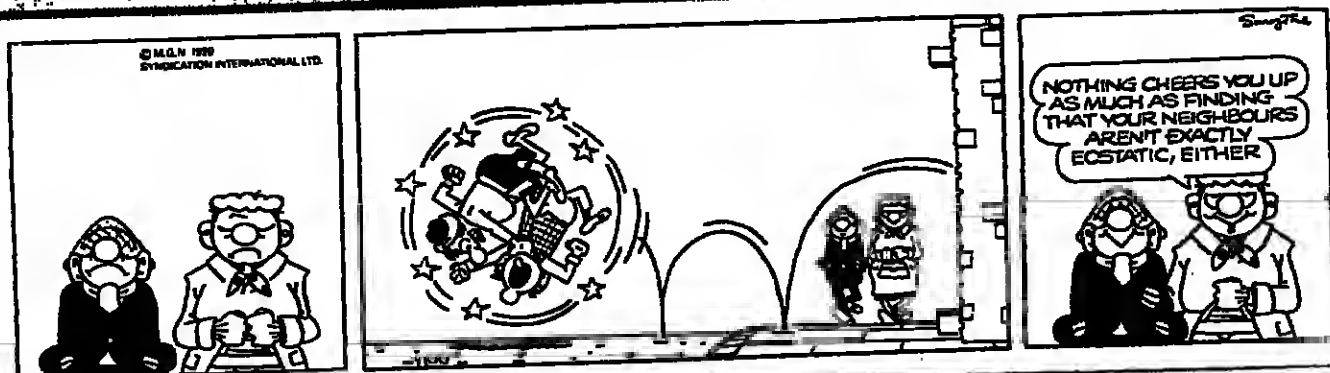
BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Bob Baker & John Ortved



ANDY CAPP



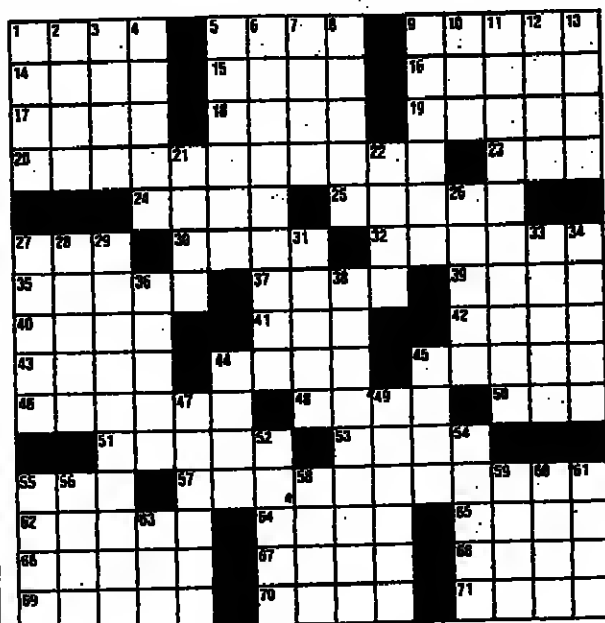
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Show approval
5 Took a dip
9 Falls short
14 Singer Falena
15 Baseball figure
16 Gaucho's plain
17 — about
18 Aleutian island
19 Like the old bucket of song
20 Unrealistic prospect
23 Mad. fast
24 Tha likes of
25 Provide
27 Old salt
30 Heydarali
32 Mideast republic
35 Verbal taste
37 Misplaced
39 Part of TAE
40 Comic character
41 Payable
42 Wins for Rocky
43 Gen. Bradley
44 Org.
45 Welsh symbols
46 Most unsubstantiated
48 It, in Italia
50 Antique auto
51 — Jack
53 Othello's adversary
55 Brit. air arm
57 Shrewd one
62 Incompetent
64 Hideaway
65 Puts the finish on
66 Steps over a fence
67 Jackknife, e.g.
68 Former, formerly

DOWN

1 Hoof sound
2 One of the Andersons
3 Soap ingredient
4 City of Light
5 Seize
8 Keaps from
7 Poker stake
8 North Sea feeder
9 Bridges and Nolan
10 Carte starter
11 High prancing
12 Toddler's perch
13 Melody
21 Squirrel food
22 Do handwork
26 Expound
27 "Fiddler on the Roof" star
28 Bouquet
29 Wait
31 Awaken
33 Conjure
34 Rope
36 Sophia
38 Tander
44 Particle
45 Trademark
47 Lee, to Jackie
49 Holy
52 Nita of silents
54 Exudes
55 1961 Secy of State
56 Contrary
58 Berate, with "at"
59 Marx or Malden
60 — facto
61 Beatrice d'—
63 — de France

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

BLANC SAISS KAREN
ASEA ALIT OLIVE
MARU TONE RATES
SPILLING THE SALT
DYNE YAK
HOURIS LIKE AIRS
AKRON INON NAA
BRINGING BACK LUCK
LAE RILE HIRREE
OSLO ATE COVERS
RON VOTE
BREAKING A MIRROR
AORTA BASE LOMA
ALLEY AGEH STUN
LEELOS PAISS HLIST

GORDEN BRIDGE

FORGET THOSE AXIOMS

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ A K 10 3
♥ J 4
♣ K 10 5
♠ 8 6 4 2

WEST
♦ Q 8 7 2
♥ 10 7 6
♣ J 9 8 7
♠ A 3

EAST
♦ 9 5 4
♥ A 8 5 3 2
♣ Q 6 4
♠ Q 9

SOUTH
♦ J 6
♥ K Q 9
♣ A 3 2
♠ K 10 7 5 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of
There are many truths in those bridge rubrics, most of them handed down to us from the days of whist. But they are designed for generalities, not specific situations. There are times when they should be observed more in the breach.

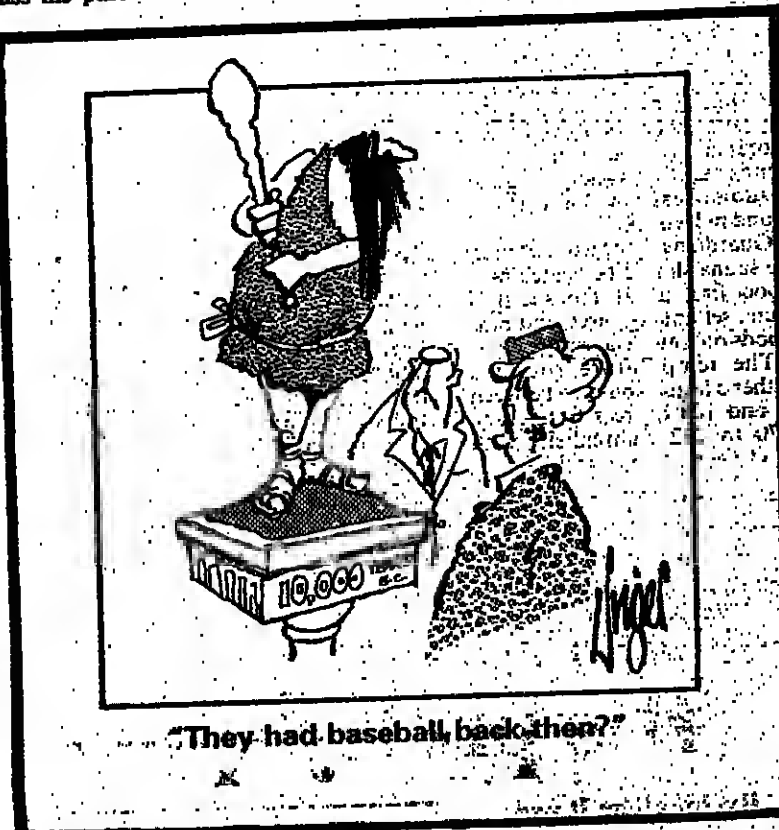
North's opening bid was a trifle light, but the hand did contain 2 1/2 defensive tricks and the master suit. Although the opening bid was doubtful, North correctly refused to pass his partner's forcing response

and the final contract was reasonable.

Declarer won the opening lead in dummy with the king and led a club. Had East blindly followed the old adage of "second hand low," declarer would have sneaked home by going in with the king. Although that would have lost to the ace, a simple bold-up of the ace of diamonds for one round would have allowed declarer to keep West off lead while setting up the clubs, limiting the defenders to two clubs, one heart and one diamond.

However, East found a stunning defense by shooting up with the queen of clubs! Declarer had no counter. If South played low, East would simply revert to the queen of diamonds and continue the suit to force out declarer's last stopper while West still had the ace of clubs as an entry.

At the table, declarer covered the queen of clubs with the king, losing to West's ace. That defender continued diamonds to force out the ace and all would have been well had East held the jack of clubs to go with the queen. But the knave turned out to be West's entry to the good diamond and the defenders reeled in five tricks—two in each minor and the ace of hearts.



YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 19
You will be able to settle an old score but you should instead show the other cheek. You will feel a lot better than if you get your own back. You should ensure you do not do anything that would be even slightly against the law. Be reasonable.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20
Something you had thought would be plain sailing will turn out to be quite difficult. However do not let yourself be dissuaded you are on the right track and should persevere. Do not take quite so much for granted. Be prompt.



Libra
Sept. 21 - Oct. 23
You will have something to be pleased about, but there is also something that will irritate you. Try to take it in your stride and avoid losing your temper if you possibly can. Seek not to do anything which would be on your conscience. Be less obstinate.



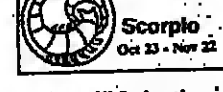
Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
You should have the courage of your convictions and you should stick to your principles, too. If you have been doing something wrong do not try to evade the fact, but do change course. Take good care of your health. Be alert.



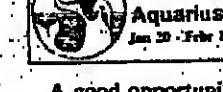
Taurus
April 21 - May 20
You should make a few allowances for other people's failing. If you do they might in return allow for yours. You should try to think positively and constructively. Do not do anything that would be bad for your health. Be sincere.



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21
You should try to see things more from other people's point of view. Try not to get into a violent argument, if you do argue, cut it short. Give others little more benefit of the doubt. Be polite.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22
You will feel rather irritable and should do your best to stay out of trouble. Something that you have been postponing should be attended to without further delay. Do not expect love without loving in your turn. Be frugal.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
A good opportunity could well be missed because it is not recognized as such. Make sure you do not leave a letter unanswered nor any bills unpaid. Leave your partner in no doubt about your love and affection. Be meaningful.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20
You will be tempted to eat a lot of snacks between meals. No harm in that provided they are little and some too sweet. Do not become involved in something that does not all concern you. Be courteous.



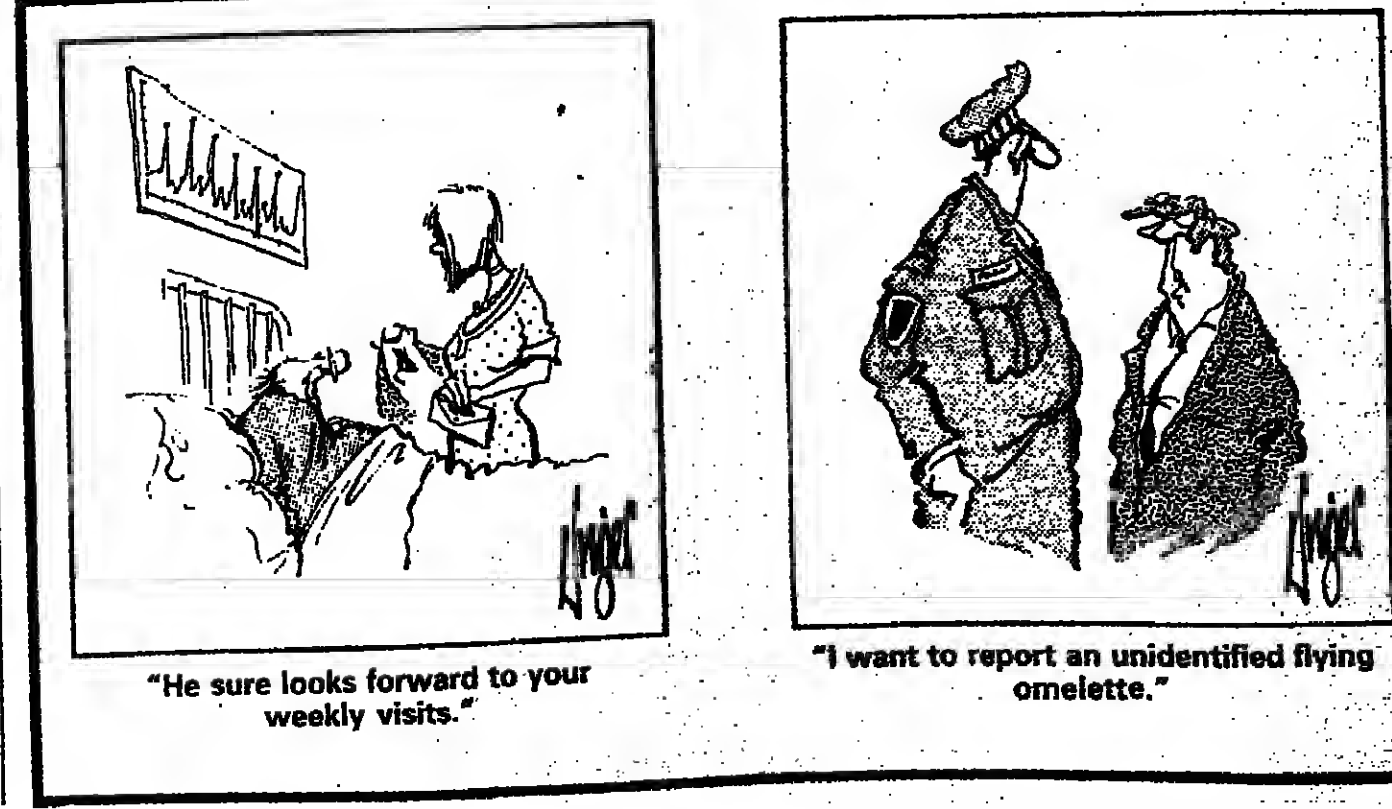
Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
Do not expect everyone to do just what you would like them to do. Your lucky numbers are 14 and 37. Try not to make a nuisance of yourself. Make sure you do not break any speed or other safety limits. Be moderate.



Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 20
Show a little more respect for your elders but do not be condescending towards those younger than you. You should try not to lose a sense of proportion. Keep an open mind towards chance but not changes for their own sake. Be tactful.



Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20
A skill you thought you had acquired in full will need just a little more practice. And do make sure you do not let your forget a skill you are not currently using. Show a little more goodwill towards others and be more strict towards yourself. Be grateful.



Finnish saunas Reviving the sacred image

By Tony Austin

HELSINKI, (Reuters): Finns are concerned that the sauna, the health-giving vapour bath they have been taking for generations, has become associated abroad with sexual licence.

The Finnish Sauna Society is campaigning to stop foreigners from using the word sauna to describe what it says are sometimes actually massage parlours and houses of prostitution in some other countries.

Executive Secretary Pirkko Valtakari said the society and its sister organisation, the International Sauna Society, were asking Finnish embassies and missions abroad to help uphold the wholesome image of the sauna.

"Of course we have no copyright on the word sauna. But it is a cause of annoyance to the Finn when he sees the word being misused in other countries," she said in a statement.

Valtakari said that in Finland only members of the same family would take a mixed sauna. According to a Finnish saying, one should behave in the sauna as if in church.

"Here we are very strict about segregating men and women in the sauna," honorary president Professor Herald Teir told a visitor to the society's sauna headquarters on Lauttasaari Island in Helsinki.

Guardians of the true faith say the sauna should be heated by a wood fire, as at the society's sauna set among birch and pine woods on Lauttasaari.

The temperature round a bath's head should be between 80 and 100 degrees Centigrade (170 to 212 Fahrenheit) with good ventilation, and humidity between 40 and 70 grammes of water vapour per cubic metre of air.

"My father was born in a

sauna. Many of his generations were. The sauna was considered the most hygienic place in a house," said Teir, a retired physician, and mentor of the society's 1,900 members.

As he conducts visitors into the dark, slightly acid-smelling sauna, Teir recalls the day in 1983 when George Bush, then US vice-president, came as a guest.

"I realise the need for security, but when he came here I had to draw the line at armed guards coming into the sauna," Teir said.

"We still exchange letters. I have invited him to come back to celebrate my 100th birthday in the sauna," said Teir, adding that this would be in the year 2014.

The smoky atmosphere and soot on the ceiling and upper benches at Lauttasaari contrast with the gleaming white pine appearance of most modern saunas.

"This is the real Finnish sauna. I have heard the Swedes read newspapers in their saunas, but not here," said Teir, flicking water onto the hot stones with a birch swish to produce a stinging wave of steam.

In the half-gloom, a visitor once accidentally spilt a whole wooden tub of water over the stones. "It was like a atomic explosion. He was surprised when we Finns hit the floor as if we were under attack," Teir said.

In Finnish culture, traditional uses of the sauna included curing ham, threshing grain and drying linen. The sauna is also known to inhabitants of the Siberian Tundra and North American Indians.

Businessmen and politicians often take their visitors to the sauna, believing that hostility vanishes in the steam and that rank and protocol are shed along with one's clothes.



Erma: fond memories

Erma speaks out: part 6

Sad farewell

By Ahmed Al Jarallah
Arab Times Editor-in-Chief

ERMA kept her promise and invited me that evening. On my arrival, she welcomed me warmly and enthusiastically and asked: Ahmed, how did you reach me? How did you know my whereabouts and why did you want to interview me? Without waiting for a reply, she continued — when you first phoned me asking for an appointment, I accepted, though I was not quite prepared for an interview. However, after meeting you, I had a change of mind and decided to talk about my memories.

I told her that while I was watching a film on King Farouk on the French TV, I saw her beside him and from that date decided to search for her. The programme was entitled "Stars" presented by Frederick Mitterrand, the nephew of the French president and I informed her that it was that individual who had guided me to her.

I also told her that there was another reason for my trying to meet her — the writings about the former Egyptian king were mostly one-sided. These, I said, could have been projected by his opponents who desired to depict him as a reckless and careless man. I further said that I believed that the man should be covered from a different angle which could be only possible through her.

I went on to explain to her that I desire to have a clear picture in my mind about King Farouk as we were told that he was swimming in liquor, while she had told me that he drank no alcohol.

Erma listened to me intently and I felt that she was convinced of my bonafides for meeting with her.

Going ahead with my dialogue, I told her that it might come as news to her to learn that Farouk hated his mother Nazly and differed with her and refused to meet with her. The reason, I said, as explained to me was that she had changed her religion from Islam to Catholicism.

Continuing, I told her that when Nazly tried very hard while in the USA to meet with Farouk and sent one of the Shah of Iran's sisters to mediate with him to meet her, but he refused on the grounds that he did not want to meet with a Muslim who had converted to another religion.

Erma, I said, I was further told that Farouk used to fast during the holy month of Ramadan and used to pray with the beads during this period. During this period, Farouk used to take a break from everything and he was changing his life's programme.

She said that she could not understand the reason for the change in Farouk's life during that period, but said that she recollected that during that month, Farouk had presented a nice head to that Middle Eastern personality who used to visit them.

Having spoken at some length myself, I queried her: Erma, you said that Farouk died a poor man —

could you elucidate?

After a brief hesitation, she said that during his last days, Farouk lived a lonely life. He had only one secretary, out of the original five. He was an Albanian national named Yacoub. Also only one servant remained with Farouk. The secretaries and servants had left him, because he was unable to pay them.

She added that strangely, Farouk never complained to anyone, although, I knew that he had many friends and they could have assisted him, only if he had told them. However, he was a very proud man and though gifts did come during his last days they were insignificant.

All these factors combined to add to his psychological troubles which adversely affected his health. Erma said, Farouk never complained, she said and added that he sold his properties to survive and in the end we did not find anything of value in his will. She confided that he was proud to the extent that if he did not find anything to eat — he would remain hungry.

Taken up with her memories, Erma said that Farouk was loved by Italy and the Italians loved him. They used to call him "King Farouk". He died at the age of 45, but looked because of sorrow and pain as if he was 60 or 70 years of age. He died because of his worries and death must have been a good rest for him, she added reflectively.

I was really astounded with this new insight into King Farouk to the extent that I told Erma: I wonder whether I am listening to a tragedy film or a true episode.

Erma replied: Believe me — I have presented Farouk from an eyewitness' point of view. Write this.

She became very sad and was almost on the point of tears. Consequently, I felt I should finish the questions and at that moment, looking at Erma, I felt a very strong pain.

I requested her to arise and taking a taxi drove her to the apartment in silence. It was indeed a sad parting.

I went back to my hotel, packed my things preparing to leave. Yes, I did meet her again — in the morning of the next day when she insisted that she accompany me to the airport.

On the way, I asked Erma — do you still believe in re-incarnation? Yes, she said emphatically — my origins are from the Nile Valley and who knows perhaps one day another leader may come to take me and thus achieve what Cleopatra achieved in taking two Roman leaders.

On my way back home, many issues still remain unresolved in my mind. I was still wondering as to what is right and what is wrong? Is history all correct or only part of it?

I leave you with these difficult questions — yet to be answered.

Concluded

When noise patrols cruise

It's pretty quiet on New York's streets

By Jonathan Rowe

NEW YORK, (CSM): It's pretty quiet on 42nd Street tonight. Car horns mainly, and buses that rumble and beep.

Not long ago, working this strip was like shooting fish in a barrel. Every boom-box store and peep show had a loudspeaker blaring out at the sidewalk. A noise inspector could write up 10 violations a night, easy.

The crackdown has had an effect, however. Tonight the street hustlers and movie marquee seem like images on TV screen with the sound turned down.

Jerry Dimitriou, an inspector for New York's Bureau of Air Resources, pulls over to the curb anyway. Nothing on the schedule until 9 tonight, so they might as well walk the beat for the while. Sure enough, a boom-box store called California Electronics has a big loudspeaker working just inside the door, to lure some sidewalk traffic. It's pretty tame by previous Times Square standards. But the law says no noise on the sidewalk, period.

Jerry and Dennis O'Conner, his partner, go in and issue the violation. They are both short, even-tempered men who wear zip-up jackets. Tonight their supervisor, Steve O'Connell, is with them to accompany a reporter.

"Give us a break," says a man behind the counter at California Electronics. The fine will be at least \$440, and he is a little perturbed. "You need something — a radio — a little later, we take care of you." His younger colleagues is less inclined to know. "They have to make their salaries," he sneers, as the three men leave.

Another night on the New York City noise patrol. Noise is one of America's most persistent forms of pollution. In New York, it tends to come from music bars and construction sites and rooftop ventilation units. There are thousands of these, and every evening, from 6 pm to 2 am, Jerry and Dennis and one other team cruise the city's five boroughs, trying to keep the decibel level in check. (Thirty-two inspectors work the day shift.)

The inspectors also enforce the city's clean air laws, including restaurant fumes and the like. Mostly, they respond to complaints to the city's 24-hour hotline. There are more than 400 such complaints in a typical month. The inspectors look into three or four complaints per night. They don't get involved in boom-boxes, noisy crowds, and the like. "We are very happy to



Inspector Jerry Dimitriou reads a sound meter for a decibel check in a New York apartment above a disco.

defer that to the police department," says Jerry Ross, the bureau's director of enforcement.

Right now Steve and crew are parked on Seventh Avenue, around the corner from California Electronics. Dennis is the designated paperwork man for the evening, and he's writing up the violation. Each stop requires 15 to 20 minutes worth of paperwork, and there's a car report at the end of the evening. "I hate that," says Steve, still humming over the clerk's remark.

The first scheduled stop tonight is in a gloomy warehouse district just south of Canal Street, called Tribeca. The area has been sprouting condos and yuppie restaurants, and one such establishment, called Walker's, is bothering neighbours with kitchen fumes. It has already been fined for noise from the ventilation unit. The inspectors seem to show a little extra interest in repeat offenders like this.

He changed the sound of the city

NEW YORK, (CSM): Most New Yorkers have never heard of Thomas Faye. But they are hearing a little easier because of him.

Dr Faye, a hearing specialist at the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Centre here, led an effort in the early '70s that altered the sound of sirens on the city's streets. Police sirens and the like used to be a raucous yowl. Now they are more melodious, if not less arresting. "It literally changed the sound of the city," he says.

They trudge up several flights of an old tenement building next door. No question. The place smells as though the kitchen vent was right outside the window. The resident is an artist, and he's understandably upset. How many times is he going to have to complain before Walker's finally shapes up, he asks.

The inspectors shoulder their way through the crowded restaurant to see the owner. The problems turn out to be a leaky stack, the duct that carries fumes up to roof level. The owner, who is trying hard to stay cool, claims he didn't know about the leak. Couldn't he just get a warning?

The inspectors are going by the book. "He knew about it," Jerry says later in his calm Greek accent. "Most of them, they don't care."

It's 10 pm, lunch time for the night shift. The next stop is a music club in the East Village, conveniently close to Katz's Delicatessen with its famous pastami.

Most noise complaints in New York City are in Manhattan. Of those, the majority concern discos and other music clubs, especially at night. Before 1986 the law was vague, prohibiting only "unnecessary" noise. That year, the city passed a new "Disco Law" that set a fixed threshold of 45 decibels. If noise penetrates someone's apartment at that level, there's a fine of between \$2,000 and \$8,000. After three violations, the city can padlock the sound system.

In the abstract, 45 decibels doesn't seem so high; normal conversation is about that level. (An alarm clock is about 80 decibels.) Looked at another way, however, 45 decibels is like trying to sleep with somebody talking into your ear.

"Forty-five is where people get roused to sleep," says Thomas Faye, an audiologist who heads the Vanderbilt Clinic at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital and who formerly was a member of the city's Environmental Con-

— and remains — a critic of the noise control laws. The basic problem is that fines are too low, he says. A fine of \$2,000 for a big night club is just a "trivial nuisance."

"The fine structure has to be revised massively," he says, in words that many New Yorkers, kept awake by thumping discos until 3 am, will cheer. "We have to hit them where it hurts them."

trol Board.

The persistent ka-thump from a disco is especially infuriating at three o'clock in the morning, moreover.

"It is not hazardous to bearing but to health," says Dr Faye. "It's a terrible invasion of privacy."

That is how the people feel at 65 Second Avenue, at 4th Street. The club in the basement has been assaulting them with noise at all hours of the night. The apartment building is a cavernous old walk-up that has seen grander days. Faye says that bass sounds and drums course through the walls as though they were extensions of the instruments. "The (building) structure becomes a loudspeaker," he says.

The club is called Woody's, and it's a typical New York scene bar. The college-age patrons, dressed in requisite black vamp, aren't exactly Steve's crowd. "Living high on daddy's money," he remarks. One gets the impression he wouldn't mind finding a violation at Woody's tonight.

On the second floor, however, the biggest commotion is a domestic squabble. To the chagrin of the tenants, the noise from Woody's isn't as loud as it usually is. "This is totally atypical," says a wiry man with gray curly hair.

It's a common occurrence on the noise beat, a little like the car that won't start except when the mechanic is checking it.

It turns out that the woman who filed the complaint had announced the inspection at a tenants' meeting, and Woody's had gotten wind of it. The manager acknowledges to Steve later that he just happened to turn off one speaker tonight. The woman will have to file another complaint.

The inspectors are disappointed, too. Woody's looked like a violator. It's after midnight, and the banter in the car is starting to flag. The last appointment is uptown on East 93rd Street. It's a doorman building, and Steve instinctively runs a comb through his hair as he enters the elevator.

The apartment has a carpeted hush that suggests financial comfort. A doctor's wife is explaining that the bar directly below, called T.G.I. Friday's, intrudes on this tranquility with an awful racket. But once again, the noise isn't here when the inspectors arrive. Everyone sits awkwardly for a while, on a couch that looks big enough to hold a baseball team. "Sometimes we stay an hour, an hour and a half," Jerry says later. "Always, we must be very polite."



Ahmed Al Jarallah and Erma: saying goodbye

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

Blood disease can have mild or severe effects

QUESTION: A close relative recently was diagnosed with "thalassaemia." He is 29 years old and has never used illegal drugs and a heterosexual. Please tell me what you know about this disorder. Thank you very much.

ANSWER: Let me first put your mind at ease. Neither one of the two lifestyle situations that you mention has anything to do with the cause of thalassaemia. The name of this blood disorder comes from the Greek word "thalassa" meaning "sea" because the condition was first observed in people who lived around the Mediterranean Sea, and is sometimes called "Mediterranean anaemia." Today, although common in Italians, Africans and individuals of Southeast Asian ancestry, the disease has a worldwide distribution.

As a group, thalassaemia refers to a group of chronic, inherited anaemias that are caused by malfunctions in the synthesis of haemoglobin, which affects the production of red cells. There are two main types, "thalassaemia major" (sometimes called "Cooley's anaemia") and "thalassaemia minor." While the anaemia may be severe in the "major" form, life expectancy for those with the "minor" form is normal.

In severe types, there may be changes in bone structure, enlarged spleen and impaired growth pattern in children. Since the anaemia is caused by the body's inability to manufacture enough normal red cells, the only treatment available is transfusion, which in itself can provoke serious side effects and complications. However, since the disorder may be inherited in a number of ways, the severity of the disease may vary from a few problems to a situation that is severe and life threatening.

The manner in which thalassaemias are trans-

mitted has received a great deal of study, increasing the ability of genetic counsellors to advise prospective parents with this trait. The fact that your relative has only been diagnosed at the age of 29 may indicate that he has the less severe form of the anaemia, but only complete testing of his blood can tell. The fact that this is an inherited disease may make this answer of more than passing interest to you if you are a member of his family and a blood relative.

QUESTION: My 15-year-old son has a whole lot of pimples popping out on his chest. If I didn't know better, I would think it could be acne, but believe they only crop out on the face. What could this rash be?

ANSWER: Acne can cause pimples on the chest and back as well as the face. Teen-aged boys suffer especially from acne pimples in that location. But there are other skin conditions or infections — and some medications — that can cause skin outbreaks on the chest.

The best way to find out what your son has is to see your doctor. All skin eruptions are best diagnosed when examined directly. Acne pimples are primarily blackheads (or comedones in medical terminology). If this outbreak is composed of small whiteheads (pustules), if reddened bumps (papules), the condition may be a folliculitis, or an infection of the hair follicles, or perhaps it's just a case of prickly heat. However, neither usually occurs on the chest.

The problem may be a skin infection, and your doctor may check for this by seeing if there are bacteria in the pustules. It sounds like this problem is causing both you and your son a bit of anxiety, which can only be relieved with the personal diagnosis your physician can supply.

The museum of time

Conjuring up the past with scale models

By John Spurling

Art Critic
'The New Salesman and Society'

WHEN Mrs Gorbachev visited the Museum of London in April last year, she was shown the dress worn by Anna Pavlova for a performance of Tchaikovsky's *Russian Dance*. But the item that most enchanted her was the 19th century grocer's shop, complete with its heavy wooden counter and shelves, a huge cast-iron coffee-grinder, an elaborate overhead wire system for communicating with the cashier, and a display of very dry biscuits in glass cases along the front of the counter.

The grocer's is only one of the many shops and rooms rescued from demolition and now reconstructed in the museum. There are also a tailor's, a printer's, a chemist's and a pub from the 19th century; a 20th century Woolworth's counter; the splendid lifts installed in Selfridge's department store in 1928; two cells from an 18th century debtors' prison, complete with names and drawings scratched on the wooden walls and a stuffed rat under the table; a medieval kitchen and a Roman one, with a mosaic floor.

Possibly even better for conjuring up the past are the beautiful scale models on display, many of which are now historic objects themselves, since they were made in the last century. They include a Roman wharf under construction beside the River

Thames, with soldiers marching over a bridge and a party of slaves huddled on the quay; there is London Bridge, with its burden of medieval and 16th century houses and, over the stone gate on the south bank, even tiny spikes on which are impaled the heads of executed criminals.

Fire Experience

There are also models of Sir Joseph Paxton's Crystal Palace, built for the Great Exhibition of 1851, and of old St Paul's Cathedral, which was destroyed by the Great Fire of London in 1666.

Above all there is the so-called Fire Experience itself. It is a model of the 17th century wooden city at night. With dark clouds scudding across the backcloth, the exhibit begins to glow here and there, and then breaks out in red flames all over as we hear the famous account by diarist Samuel Pepys of how the fire spread out of control as the wind blew.

The exhibit on that other more recent devastation of London — the World War II Blitz — in which nearly 30,000 people died and 12,000 buildings were destroyed, currently consists only of a pile of builders' rubble with photographs behind. However, this section is about to be refurbished as part of a steady programme of improvements.

The Museum of London was formed by the amalgamation of two museums devoted to London's history and was opened in 1976 in purpose-built premises

beside a surviving section of the old city wall.

The museum galleries occupy two floors around a central courtyard, which has been little open space, housing a major exhibition, "London's Pride".

Temporary exhibitions:

The British are often criticised for their attitude towards urban life, for persisting to think of themselves as essentially country-dwellers. The positive side of this, however, has been the British passion for gardens, however small.

"London's Pride" will document the long history of London's gardens. The museum's glazed entrance hall will be converted into a late-19th century winter garden, and the central courtyard redesigned and replanted to show the part played by the leading London plant nurseries from the 16th century to the present day.

The exhibition is scheduled to end in August, but the new courtyard garden will remain as a permanent part of the museum.

Temporary exhibitions are a regular feature. Recent ones have included a display on the history of pewter, and another showing a selection from the archive of 75,000 photographs of everyday life in post-1945 London that were taken by Henry Grant and bought from him in 1986.

Although the museum is renowned for its collection of miscellaneous curiosities

— ranging from 10th century Danish battle-axes to Oliver Cromwell's death-mask, and the sumptuous red and gold Lord Mayor's coach, which is still used to his annual procession — it is also a serious archaeological centre, with two research units responsible for excavations throughout London.

They have plenty to do, as old buildings come down and deeper foundations are dug for new ones, revealing more and more about London's past and the peoples that have lived on this thin layer of clay for two thousand years.

Story of a city

The museum may be, in the strictest sense, a local one, but it makes even a Londoner feel like a temporary visitor to the city. Indeed, it is an unsettling experience, crystallised by a fine group of Roman sculptures. They are stone deities from a temple to the mysterious god Mithras, and were hidden during the 4th century in the mud of a stream to preserve them from the wrath of the early Christians.

The stream (the Walbrook) has since disappeared under the streets near the Lord Mayor's Mansion House, but the deities resurfaced in good shape nearly 1500 years later, in 1889, as if they had only been waiting for their persecutors to turn the corner. Now, in the galleries of the Museum of London, they join countless other exhibits to tell the story of a city.



A Roman kitchen reconstructed in the Museum of London

Belgian school teaches art of faking marble

BRUSSELS, Belgium. (AP):

The school has a two-year waiting list and once you're in, the going is tough. But students who finish Clement Van Der Kelen's intensive six-month course can fake marble and wood and copper like masters.

The art of painting Ersatz marble, stone or metal for decorative purposes is as old as the real things, says the director of the "Ecole Van Der Kelen-Logelain".

Its popularity peaked in the 19th century and lasted until World War II. In recent years, fake marble especially has found renewed interest.

"In France, false marble has been much in fashion again for about eight or nine years," said Jacqueline De Ponton D'Amecourt, a former student of Van Der Kelen who restored the frescoes at Washington's National Gallery of Art.

"In the United States, it's simply madness," said Ms. De Pon-

ton D'Amecourt, who works as a decorator in Belgium, France and Japan.

Van Der Kelen's school accommodates no more than 60 students.

They come from all over the world in search of a career in making stage decors or adorning mansions, churches, hotels, theaters and shops with imitation marble, wood or copper that look deceptively real.

Isabelle De Sejourne De Ramegnies, a graduate of Van Der Kelen, decorates homes and offices in Florence, Paris and London and is getting ready to branch out into the United States.

Van Der Kelen's school has excelled in the art of Trompe L'Oeil for more than 100 years.

Its founder, Michel Van Der Kelen, was a house-painter who learned about art in Paris.

He opened his school here in 1882. Today, his grandson, a spry 82-year-old, heads the

school and still teaches eight hours a day including Saturdays.

"There is no secret to success," Clement Van Der Kelen said in an interview. "You just need taste and must work hard. Students must like what they do or they won't make it."

His course costs 150,000 francs (\$4,286) for six months of eight-hour days of listening and observing, and practising and practising and practising. How much practising, in fact?

"Until they reach perfection," said Van Der Kelen, dryly from behind his desk in the study of the school, that is also his home.

As he spoke, oblique sunrays, filtered by stained glass, fell upon his thin features making look an old Dutch painting. Once a blacksmith's, his school today resembles a temple of ancient art.

"When you graduate, you can paint anything," said Magali Eylenbosch, who is staging a show on the school.

Brave little girl who became a bridesmaid

Laura's battle against cancer

By Faith Mail

THE proudest moment in little Laura Camburn's life was the day she stood at a small country church in her pretty bridesmaid's dress.

Wearing a garland of flowers on her head, the eight-year-old girl looked like a happy, healthy child.

From the church pews, two heads watched the youngster walk up the aisle behind the bride. Tears formed in Ruth and Ian Camburn's eyes as they remembered how their little girl had bravely battled against cancer and won.

Laura, who had been looking forward to this day for six months, still carried the legacy of her illness. Underneath her blonde wig, she was bald, the result of three years of chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment.

But the worst was over and Laura was well on her way to recovering from Wilms Tumour, a cancer of the kidney.

Her mother remembers: "Laura was so excited the day of the wedding she had always wanted to be bridesmaid. It was just the incentive she needed to get better."

Laura learned she was going to be bridesmaid the day she finished having chemotherapy. It was a surprise organised by a charity group called Dreams Come True, who arrange treats for sick children.

"We wrote to the group on Laura's behalf asking for her to be a bridesmaid," said Ruth. Neither Ian nor I knew anyone who was getting married and we thought that, after all Laura had been through, she deserved a gift.

"The charity found a couple from New Zealand who were getting married and needed a bridesmaid. They met Laura and were moved by her courage. They still keep in touch."

Now, a year later, Laura's appearance is transformed. Her hair has grown back and her golden locks are real. She has put on weight and has bags of energy. She attends a school for handicapped and able-bodied children near her home in Arundel, Sussex. The mixed school has successfully integrated normal and disabled children and Laura is one of the top pupils in her class.

"She loves school and is popular with the other children," Ruth told me. "When she first started, she used to attend the special handicap unit but, now she is better, she very rarely goes there."

The day I saw Laura, she was playing games in the school playground with other children. The youngster who loves watching television told me: "My favourite programme is Neighbours because I like Jason Donovan."



The proudest day in little Laura's life.

Laura is shy and won't talk about her illness. Ruth told me: "Like adults, children tend to blank something that was unpleasant out of their minds. Laura doesn't even talk about it to the other kids. But Ruth remembers the hell that she and Ian went through during those dark days when their world seemed to fall apart. It was a nightmare," she said.

And it was her good friends from a local mother-and-toddler group who helped the couple through the crisis with much-needed moral support.

"They offered to look after our other children and stood by us when we needed them the most," said Ruth. They're still good friends and help to raise money for Laura's school, Barnham Primary School.

and for Great Ormond Street Hospital where she was treated.

"In fact, they have produced a cookery book called Laura's Cook Book and are hoping to raise £1,000 for Great Ormond Street."

"Out of 100 cancer sufferers, one is a child and the group are raising money to furnish a room for mothers of the sick children."

"Where Laura was ill and I stayed at the hospital. I noticed the room I stayed in could do with some brightening up and I mentioned this to one of our friends who came up with the idea of raising money for this purpose."

She speaks highly of the hospital. She told me: "The staff at Great Ormond

Street are great. Laura received the very best treatment."

Laura was only four when the disease struck. Until then, she had led a quiet, normal life in a happy, loving family.

Ruth says she didn't even realise children got cancer. "It came as a complete shock to me to discover that my child had it," she told me. "Laura had been complaining of a stomach ache and I took her to the doctor. He could find nothing wrong with her, so I thought she probably had a mild bug that would go away in a few days."

But a week later Laura was still ill. She was feeling very lethargic and her abdomen had swollen up. The little girl was admitted to hospital for tests. Her tummy got bigger and doctors told her parents this was because it was filled with fluids "but the possibility that it might be cancer was never mentioned."

After several more tests, doctors told Ruth and Ian that Laura had cancer. "They didn't know which type of cancer it was, though either Wilms or Neuroblastoma, which is a more serious form of the disease and almost certainly means death," Ruth told me.

Eventually doctors diagnosed the tumour and operated on Laura. The operation was successful. "The surgeon told us he had removed 95 per cent of the cancerous growth and that there was a good chance Laura would get better," said Ruth.

Laura remained at Great Ormond Street to have chemotherapy and radiotherapy and doctors still weren't sure which form of cancer Laura had.

"This was the worst time because it was like living on a knife edge," said Ruth. "At one point the doctors were convinced she had Neuroblastoma but, to our relief, they diagnosed Wilms."

"Ian and I felt so happy because it gave her a fighting chance of beating this thing. We felt as though we had won the pools!"

Laura started having chemotherapy and reacted very badly to the treatment. She lost weight and her hair fell out but her condition began to improve.

Two years later Laura was fully recovered and doctors told Ruth and Ian there was a good chance she was cured. "But they said it might come back," said Ruth.

"We don't think of that now. Seeing Laura at the wedding was a proud moment for us. She looked so well and healthy and we hadn't expected her to recover so quickly."

The wedding photographs are proudly displayed in the family's photograph album and they still bring joy and tears.

Peck's good girl plays an Arab

By Vernon Scott

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): Gregory Peck's daughter, Cecilia, makes her movie debut in a starring role with an impressive performance as an Arab girl in *Torn Apart*.

Less a chip off the old block than a look-alike for her mother Veronique, Cecilia has a piquancy all her own.

She co-stars in *Torn Apart* with Adrian Pasdar in a Romeo and Juliet tragic romance between an Arab girl and a young Israeli soldier caught up in the hatred and violence of the West Bank in the 1970s.

The drama was filmed entirely on location in Israel, where Peck spent a month familiarizing herself with Palestinians before production began. She remained there another two months during principal photography.

Because Arabs — especially Arab women — are so seldom portrayed in Hollywood movies, Peck felt compelled to give an especially accurate and precise performance.

"I wanted to research the Arab culture and people firsthand," she said in an interview.

"I'd been to Israel with my parents in 1979 and saw the country the Jews had made, but I knew nothing about the Arabs. Last year I sat down and talked to Arabs about their lives, their marriages and their dreams."

"There is terrible tension on the West Bank and there are incidents every day with the intifada going on. So we couldn't film on the West Bank, but that's where much of the story takes place."

"I managed to go to the West Bank anyhow and saw what is happening. The Israeli's have built their settlements there over the objections of the Arabs who live in squalid refugee camps. A lot of them have been imprisoned."

"I tried to learn as much as I could about both sides. You tend to empathize with both peoples."

Peck said she tried to be objective in her attitudes and in dealing with Jew and Arab alike, but to play her role of Laila convincingly, it was necessary to adopt a Palestinian's demeanor.

"Laila respects and reveres her father and family," Peck said. "But she falls in love with the Israeli soldier and follows her heart."

"It was important to me to speak English with an Arab accent, which is altogether different from the Sabra or Hebrew accent. I worked with a coach here in Hollywood first and then I tape-recorded the Arabs I talked to."

Peck, a Princeton graduate, illustrated the difference, first speaking in halting fashion, then more fluently.

"I found Arab women very feminine," she said. "They communicate with their eyes so much because they wear veils for centuries. They know how to make their eyes flash. I made friends with some of them."

"Romances and marriages between Arab and Israeli are rare. It's a little easier for an Israeli woman to have a relationship with an Arab man than it is for an Arab woman and an Israeli. That's because an Arab woman is considered to have dishonored herself and her family if she has anything to do with an Israeli, or any non-Arab."

"Our company included Arab and Israeli crew and east members along with Christians. It was a very harmonious group."

"Everyone was anxious that this story be told. Most of the Jews in Israel are moderate and want peace. Our company was a microcosm of the story. It became very moving and emotional at times."

"To me it's a love story, not a political movie. The film doesn't take sides. It opened in New York and audiences responded to the picture emotionally. Jews and Arabs leave the theatre loving it."

Peck was astonished at the reaction to her performance by Arabs. Astonished and pleased.

People

Gary makes trees grow and birds sing amid the grey cities



Ecologist Gary Grant turns derelict sites into lush green parks.

BEARDED Gary Grant is a man with a vision. Wherever there is a development of factories, block of flats or soaring offices, Gary also sees lakes, woodlands and wildlife.

And now corporations are paying him to share his vision with them. Already London's old docklands have lush parks that are a paradise for birds and animals. Thanks to the enthusiastic ecologist.

And Gary, aged 31, has persuaded oil giant BP to put a pipeline underground to preserve the Siberian landscape. Now he is negotiating with Saudi Arabians to make an office development there "go green", with trees and lakes.

So many firms wanted to soften the starkness of their buildings that, a year ago, Gary set up a business, Ecoschemes, to advise them. He told me: "Business is booming. I'm currently working in a £1.5 million project in central London."

"It's a high-tech office block. I've included a shrubbery, a lake and woods in the design. The building is almost finished and the owners agree that it looks much nicer with a green area."

Gary, whose office is near the tranquil waters of the Regent's Canal in London's Little Venice, explained I'm prepared to help anybody any where in the world.

The problem is, people are still leaving it too late for me to give that rural touch to their plans.

"If I had my way, every office block in the world would have a small area of green, for birds and animals. All buildings would be surrounded by lakes and gardens. Birds nesting and ducks swimming would be a common sight."

And once this happens, everyone will be much happier at work, says Gary. He told me: "If people hear birds singing first thing in the morning, they'll feel much happier even in the bleakest new developments."

"Office workers will be able to spend lunchtime in a nice green garden rather than a smoky restaurant, and will feel much more relaxed at the end of the day."

In fact, Gary not only wants to change the way buildings look from the outside, but also the way they look from the top. He wants to build rooftop gardens on every high-rise office block.

He said: "Many offices have large flat roofs which aren't used for anything except a fire escape. That's a lot of wasted space which could be put to better use."

"The Kensington Park Hotel in London has a very large rooftop garden, with pond and hedgerow. The garden is very

popular in summer with a hotel guests, and the trees help insulate the building in winter."

Gary is currently doing a study on the idea, which is very popular in Norway, and he hopes will become just as popular in other countries. "Norwegian farmers plant grass on their barn roofs and use the area to graze sheep on in winter" he explained.

He says that turning a roof into a park wouldn't be very expensive for most companies because very little needs to be carried out. Gary said: "Depending on how large the area is, it can cost only a few thousand pounds, because a simple conversion consists of planting a few trees and grass."

And birds such as jays and owls would use the garden for nesting. "The birds which nest on higher ground would make their homes on the rooftop nature reserve" says Gary. "Any scheme which encourages birds and animals to flourish, has to be worthwhile."

"Most countries are now worried about the diminishing numbers of wildlife. And by planting trees and building lakes in cities, we can help the animal population increase."

In fact, Gary has just finished advising the London Docklands Development Corporation on a 5,500-acre site. The land which is very marshy used to be home to wildfowl, skylarks and frogs, before it became derelict. Gary plans to build four natural parks on the site, at a cost of £12 million.

He said: "Each park will be specially built to attract wildlife back to the area, and once the trees are planted, it won't be long before ducks, tits, and other local birds return to the area."

Gary has only been in business a year, but already his environmentally friendly schemes have won the approval of the British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

The government leader sent him a "thank-you" letter for his advice on the Docklands project. In it she said his scheme would make an enormous difference to children and young people, and enable them to learn about the natural world around them.

"At long last people are now realising how beneficial it is to care of our surroundings and make the most of them" he says.

"The Americans have been converting concrete space into gardens and ponds

for ages, and now the rest of the world is beginning to follow. It is possible to build a lake and woods in any town, for any amount of money."

"An average-size urban nature reserve costs about £100,000. It means a small allocation from a multi-million pound redevelopment budget" explains the ecologist, "but too many planners see wildlife as a last-minute addition."

Gary says the only way to change people's attitudes is by educating the young. He has put together a conservation pack for school children with puzzles, competitions and drawings, which will be distributed by the English supermarket chain Sainsbury.

He explains, "Children are interested in the environment. They love to take part in wildlife projects and will do anything to save their local park."

"If we start by teaching them to take care of their surrounding, then they in turn will be able to show their parents how important it is to plant trees, and look after wild animals. Within no time at all, the world will have much greener skylines," says the man, whose dream is coming true.

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SPORTS

Argentine fans heartbroken and furious

BUENOS AIRES, June 9. (Reuters): Argentines were plunged into gloom after their world champion soccer team was humiliated 1-0 by Cameroon in the first match of the 1990 World Cup finals yesterday.

Grown men whimpered during television interviews or cried out in anger on the streets of Buenos Aires at their

players' performance in Milan. "This was the most humiliating defeat for Argentina in all its World Cup history," commentator Antonio Carrizo lamented on the state-owned television station ATC.

"Not only did we lose to Cameroon — they beat us with nine men," two of Cameroon's players were sent off for

fouling Argentine forward Claudio Caniggia.

In contrast to the giddy atmosphere in Buenos Aires before the match, fans were heartbroken and furious with the performance of some Argentine stars after the defeat.

"We lost against Cameroon against Cameroon my kid could have caught the

ball (goalkeeper Nery Pumpido let in,"

news vendor Cacho Dallota cried. "I don't want to talk about the bloody World Cup," currency dealer Roberto Gomes said.

The country came to a virtual standstill during the game, streets emptying as Argentines flocked to television sets at midday.

England seek to avenge defeat

CAGLIARI, June 9. (Reuters): England aim to end the inquisition over their defeat by Ireland in the 1988 European Championship with a convincing victory when the two teams meet in the opening World Cup Group F match on Monday.

Throughout the build-up to their clash at the San' Elia stadium, the England players have grimaced at inquiries about that defeat and, in a show of indifference, many have pretended it has no bearing on their meeting in Cagliari.

"Two years is a long time in international football, you know," said striker Gary Lineker.

"Do you still remember things which happened two years ago? I don't," said goalkeeper Peter Shilton, who will equal Pat Jennings' world record of 119 international appearances on Monday.

But captain Bryan Robson revealed the true feelings of his team when he confessed that the Irish had deserved their famous win because England had missed so many opportunities — a failing which he hoped England would rectify this time.

"It is going to be a British type of game. We all know that and we all know each other very well. But it will be an exciting match," Robson said.

"The Irish were not lucky to win in Stuttgart. They played well and they worked hard. We missed a lot of chances and you don't know if that is down to bad play or just bad luck."

"We are just hoping we can make as many chances as in this time and stick away. That would put it all behind us once and for all."

Robson said England would have preferred not to be playing in the first round against Ireland, who will be seeking to extend a 13-match unbeaten run.

Reverts
England, who recently had a long unbeaten run of their own ended by defeat by Uruguay in London, are likely to recall striker Peter Beardsley to partner Gary Lineker in attack as manager Bobby Robson reverts to the formation which carried them unbeaten — and without conceding a goal — through the qualifying tournament.

This will mean dispensing with the experiment of using winger John Barnes in central attack with Lineker.

With only two men, veteran captain Robson and newcomer Paul Gascoigne in midfield, England's 4-2-4 formation could at times be stretched severely by the Irish whose reputation for an uncompromising direct approach belies the high level of skill among their players.

Manager Jack Charlton said: "I want other sides to know how we play because there is more to it than can be done in 90 minutes. The more they try to cater for what we are doing, the more they are likely to interfere with their basic approach and misuse their strengths."

"Our game is more fast and physical than the others and you have to make the most of the qualities you've got. Ours is basically a busline game."

With captain Ronnie Whelan ruled out with a foot injury, Charlton is expected to include Andy Townsend in midfield.

Charlton's aim is to stop Lineker and Beardsley running at Ireland's ageing central defenders Mick McCarthy and Kevin Moran, while the possibility of a goal on the break from John Aldridge or Tony Casanova.

If the need arises, Charlton can call on the wily skills of veteran striker Frank Stapleton, Ireland's record scorer with 20 goals who needs one more cap to equal Liam Brady's tally of 22.

Robson has the power of Steve Bull, scorer of four goals in seven appearances, in reserve.

Probable Teams:
England — Peter Shilton; Gary Stevens, Des Walker, Terry Butcher, Stuart Pearce; Paul Gascoigne, Bryan Robson; Chris Waddle, Gary Lineker, Peter Beardsley, John Barnes.

Ireland — Pat Bonner; Chris Morris, Kevin Moran; Mick McCarthy, Steve Staunton; Ray Houghton, Andy Townsend, Paul McGrath, Kevin Sheedy; John Aldridge, Tony Casanova.

Referee: Aron Schmidhuber (West Germany).
Kickoff: Monday, 10 pm (Kuwait Time).

Gambler's favourites
LONDON, June 9. (AP): If British gamblers are to be believed, England will play the Netherlands in the final of the World Cup. Paradoxically, they favour Italy as the winner.

The England-Netherlands match, a 20-1 shot, is the favourite choice of people in Britain trying to forecast the finalists.

But among those picking the overall winner, Italy is favourite at 3-1 while the Netherlands is 4-1 and England tied in fifth spot with defending champion Argentina at 11-1.

Brazil aware of dangers

Hysen, Stromberg on Sweden bench

TURIN, June 9. (Reuters): Brazil's manager Sebastiao Lazaroni said today that Cameroon's shock 1-0 World Cup win over champions Argentina underlined the dangers facing all the favourites.

"The victory by one of the so-called dark horses just shows how difficult the competition is

going to be, even for the countries considered among the best," he said.

Asked whether he was unhappy about facing as tough a side as Sweden in the first Group C match tomorrow, Lazaroni said Brazil would treat their three opening round opponents with equal respect.

"We are looking for points rather than worrying about individual teams. All of them are strong, as yesterday's result in Milan showed," he said after the Brazilians trained in Turin's Alpi stadium.

"But nonetheless, I think we will finish in the top two and qualify for the next round," he said, adding that he thought his current squad was even better than the Brazilian side who won the South American Cup last year.

Dunga, one of four Italy-based stars in tomorrow's lineup, said all the players were impressed by Cameroon.

"They are technically excellent and were able to make full use of the spaces offered by the Argentines," the Fiorentina midfielder said.

Both Lazaroni and Alemao, who plays for Napoli alongside Diego Maradona, were confident the 70,000 sell-out crowd would support Brazil against the Swedes.

"Italians like good football and that is what we will be trying

to play, though obviously a win is our first concern," Alemao said.

Lazaroni rejected criticism that the players' lack of contact with the media and local people at their training camp at nearby Asti was jeopardising the popular support that usually follows Brazil.

"We are not here for a holiday," the manager said, clearly tense as his team open their bid to take the World Cup back to Brazil.

He praised the condition of the new stadium and the apparently manicured pitch which he described as "exceptionally fast".

Sweden are due to train in the stadium tonight. Costa Rica and Scotland, the other two countries in the group, play in Genoa on Monday.

Sweden manager Olle Nordin listed captain Glenn Hysen and fellow veteran Glenn Stromberg as substitutes when he named his team.

Inspirational defender Hysen, 30, who suffered a calf injury last month, returned to full practice only this week.



Dunga (left) and Careca: two of Brazil's best players



US team gets a boost

TIRRENA, Italy, June 9. (Reuters): US soccer coach Bob Gansler said today that Cameroon's shock 1-0 win over Argentina in the World Cup opener had given a welcome boost to his squad of tournament outsiders.

"It just shows that favourites don't always win and the odds makers are not always right," Gansler said.

"It has had a very positive effect and we can draw strength from the fact an outsider was successful."

The Americans, who have not played in the World Cup finals since 1950, open their Group A first round campaign against Czechoslovakia in Florence tomorrow.

"The Cameroon win was a bit disappointing for the American players in one way," joked American striker Peter Vermes.

"We wanted to be the biggest underdogs of the World Cup. The problem now is that if we get a good result in our first game, it will not be such a big deal."

Earlier Gansler denied reports he would be quitting his job after the 1990 finals.

Gansler told reporters: "I've said before that I plan to be around for the finals in 1994," when the United States is hosting the World Cup.

The United States has been rumoured to be interested in a big name to coach their team in the

next four years and Franz Beckenbauer, who steps down as West German coach after the finals, had been linked with the job.

But US Soccer Federation officials said they had no plans to replace Gansler unless he wanted to go.



W. German players

West Germany's Hans Pflueger, Raimund Aumann and Juergen Kohler joke during a training session at Milan's Meazza stadium yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Brady favours Brazil and W. Germany

CAGLIARI, June 9. (Reuters): Former Irish international Liam Brady yesterday predicted Brazil or West Germany would win the World Cup and that his former team-mate Frank Stapleton would overhaul his record of 72 caps for Ireland.

Brady, in Cagliari as a commentator for radio and television, said he felt both Brazil and West Germany had strength in depth as well as the necessary star players to win the trophy.

"I am not saying they are going to meet in the final," said Brady, who played for eight years in

the Italian First Division with Juventus, Sampdoria and Internazionale Milan. "But I feel they are the two best teams."

Brady said he would be delighted for striker Stapleton if he broke his appearance record during Ireland's first round Group F matches against England, Egypt and the Netherlands.

Stapleton has 71 caps and needs only one more appearance to equal Brady's record, but he is unlikely to be in Ireland's starting line-up and may only get his chance if Irish manager Jack Charlton uses him as a tactical substitute.

Gullit's return delights soccer supporters

PALERMO, June 9. (Reuters): Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker's assurance that captain Ruud Gullit would begin every World Cup match will have delighted soccer supporters the world over.

Only a matter of weeks ago it seemed the tall, supremely athletic dreadlocked star would be just another spectator at the World Cup finals.

He hadn't kicked a ball in anger for almost a year and after three knee operations it seemed more pertinent to ask if he would ever play again rather than when.

But last month Gullit helped AC Milan lift the European Cup in his first full game of the season and is now ready to lead the Dutch as they attempt to add the World Cup to their 1988 European Championships.

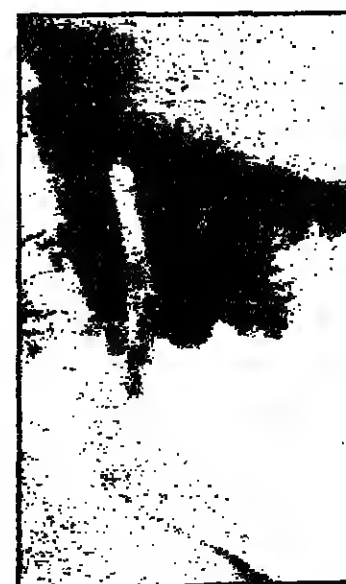
"Right now I must say I do feel pretty good, pretty strong but it's very difficult after a year out," Gullit told Reuters.

"I'll take around six months before I'm back at full strength and able to play like I used to," he said.

"Every game is important for me. The first time I came on as substitute for Milan was important. Every time I play I'm taking a step forwards," he said.

Anyone who saw Gullit's performance in last weekend's victory over fellow finalists Yugoslavia will vouch that he is however again a force to be reckoned with.

He constantly patrolled the space between the two penalty areas and set up a goal for AC Milan colleague Frank Rijkaard with a burst of acceleration many feared may not have survived the ravages of the surgeon's knife.



Gullit is surrounded by Italian police on his way to the practice field yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

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More importantly, with Gullit



always available to pick up the ball and take pressure off his colleagues the Dutch showed signs of rediscovering the effervescent style of their European triumph two years ago.

Gullit will be almost 32 when the next World Cup rolls around and is eager to make an impact here on his first appearance in the finals.

"I don't really look at it as a bonus for me just being here. The World Cup is such a big tournament that I want to turn in good performances," he said.

A year ago he was playing well enough to vie with Diego Maradona for the title of the world's greatest player.

His tremendous stamina, aerial and running power and reading of the game made him as

14 English fans charged after riot

CAGLIARI, June 9. (Reuters): Fourteen English soccer fans were charged with public order offences today after clashes between bottle-throwing hooligans and riot police in Cagliari.

British officials said the 14 would appear individually in court and could spend up to 15 days in jail awaiting trial, missing England's Group F first to 15 days in jail awaiting trial, missing England's Group F first round matches against Ireland, the Netherlands and Egypt in the Sardinian capital.

In Genoa, where many fans are taking ferries to Sardinia, police said two English youths arrested yesterday for possessing knives and a heavy chain would be deported.

Those charged in Cagliari were among 21 fans detained after Friday night's clash, which police said began when about 70 English supporters drinking in a waterfront bar ignored pleas to stop singing and shouting and ran up a sidestrewn throwing bottles and glasses.

Serious
Witnesses said at least 100 helmeted riot police with batons chased the fans. Police said one supporter was injured.

The clash was the most serious incident so far of the World Cup finals, which began yesterday, and underlined the tension in Cagliari, where more than 3,000 armed police are on alert against England's notorious soccer hooligans.

Seven of the fans detained were released after questioning, a British embassy spokesman said. Police at first said up to 40 fans had been held.

The current side combines fleet-footed skill with a less than reverential attitude towards FIFA rulings on clean play. In addition to two players being sent off, two others were hooked.

Omar-Biyik and Cyrille Makanaky, both sharpened by experience in the French League, caught a ponderous Argentine back line on the hop time and again will spell danger for the defenses of the Soviet Union and Romania in their next Group B encounters.

"I'm very happy to have scored the first goal on this World Cup. That was my dream before I came here," Omar-Biyik said.

He declared himself especially



Maradona (right) is tripped by Cameroon's Victor Ndiip Akem. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cameroon — Africa's pride

MILAN, June 9. (Reuters): Irrepressible Cameroon gave the World Cup a sensational start yesterday when they humbled holders Argentina with nine men in a great giant-killing performance.

The 1-0 win over Diego Maradona's vaunted team embellished the record of teams from Africa which have steadily closed the gap which once separated them from soccer's traditional leaders in South America and Europe.

Francois Omam-Biyik's 66th-minute goal illustrated magnificent resilience, coming just five minutes after Cameroon had been reduced to 10 men after Andre Kana-Biyik was sent off.

Benjamin Massing was shown the red card by referee Michel Vautrot just before the end of the match but by then the Argentines had been comprehensively outplayed.

The spirit of the Cameroon 'Lions' had already claimed the noisy support of the Milan crowd, who delighted in the discomfiture of Maradona — target for much abuse as the man who led Naples to Italian League triumph at the expense of AC Milan.

The San Siro stadium was festooned with the blue and white of Argentine banners but the crowd of over 73,000 acclaimed the red, yellow and green of Cameroon as the exultant African players leapt with joy after their shock win.

It was fitting salute to Africa's fifth victory in the World Cup finals, following Tunisia's 3-1 win over Mexico in 1978, Algeria's major 2-1 upset over West Germany and their 3-2 win over Chile in 1982 and Morocco's 3-1 dismissal of Portugal in 1986 after they had held both Poland and England to draws.

Cameroon had already made their mark of the World Cup, bowing out undefeated in 1982 and coming within an ace of eliminating eventual winners Italy with whom they drew 1-1.

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Cameroon's Ricardo Gusti walks Biyik Omani away from the Argentine as the latter hides his face in disbelief. (Reuters wirephoto)



Diego Maradona walks off the field as Cameroon players celebrate. (Reuters wirephoto)

pleased because the Cameroon President was in the stadium. "I dedicate this goal to the President of the Republic of Cameroon," he said.

Evergreen Roger Milla also showed some lively skills belying his 38 years when he came on as a late substitute for Makanaky.

The defence harried constantly, treating Maradona with scant respect.

In goal, Thomas N'Kono, a World Cup hero in 1982, was preferred on the day to the highly-rated Joseph-Antoine Bell and gave a commanding relaxed performance.

The exuberance of the current side contrasts with the laconic approach of their Soviet coach Valery Nepomniachi, whose

reaction to a staggering victory was: "This is football. We're here to win as a matter of fact."

Nepomniachi reckons his team still had something in reserve — which is just as well because they will now be missing Kana-Biyik and Massing for the next two games.

"It's a problem which will require some thinking but we still have time. We'll train up other players. We have 22 in our team," he said.

Team captain Thomas Tataw Eta reckons Cameroon will spring more surprises.

"We're here to show the world what we can do. I think we've started appropriately and correctly and I think we'll succeed," he said.

Johnston return vital for Scottish hopes

GENOA, June 9. (Reuters): The return of striker Mo Johnston from injury is vital to Scottish hopes of ending their disastrous World Cup record by beating Costa Rica in their opening Group C game Monday.

"We need two points from our first game if we are to achieve what we never managed before — to qualify for the second round," said coach Andy Roxburgh.

The Scots have never gone beyond the first phase in six appearances in the finals since they first qualified in 1954.

But Roxburgh warned against over-confidence when they meet the Costa Ricans, playing in the World Cup finals for the first time and regarded as the weakest team in a group which also includes Brazil and Sweden.

"We have to regard this first game as our own World Cup final and be prepared to run ourselves into the ground," he said.

With versatile Liverpool player Steve Nicol, the English League's 1989 Footballer of the Year, missing from the squad after a groin operation last month, Scottish hopes rest heavily on Johnston.

The Glasgow Rangers striker, who played a crucial role in the World Cup qualifiers with six goals in seven ties, suffered a torn stomach muscle in the build-up to the finals.

"He has started taking part in our training games and is progressing well. There is a possibility that he will be available for selection, which we didn't think earlier this week," Roxburgh said.

"Although we are very much a team and we don't like to highlight certain players, Johnston was an important scorer in the qualifiers and we want him available for selection."

Neither Scotland, who boast only three victories in their 17 ties in World Cup finals, nor Costa Rica have impressed in the build-up to Italy.

Scotland's 1-0 win over world champions Argentina in March was followed by a disappointing series of results, including a 3-1 home defeat by World Cup finalists Egypt.

Benazzi sent off in first Test

Australia beat France



Nick Farr-Jones (centre) looks at Blanco (right) who passes to Henry Sanz. (Reuters wirephoto)

SYDNEY, June 9. (Reuters): French flanker Abdel Benazzi was sent off today as flyhalf Michael Lynagh kicked Australia to a 21-9 victory in a spiteful first rugby union Test.

Moroccan-born Benazzi enjoyed just 13 minutes 25 seconds of his international debut before being sent off for stamping in a ruck.

Benazzi had been involved in two skirmishes with Australian second rower Peter Fitzsimons in the first three minutes, the second of which sparked an all-in battle between the two sets of forwards.

Fitzsimons, swinging wildly, squared up to Benazzi and was hit in the head from behind by French centre Philippe Sella who raced in with a swinging right fist. English referee Tony Spreadbury, in his first Test, amazingly allowed Sella to stay on the field, lamely awarding Australia a penalty in front of the posts.

Lynagh converted for the first of his five penalties. He also scored a conversion in a faultless kicking performance to take his points haul in 37 Tests to a record 473 points. Didier Camberbero

scored all France's points from penalties.

Benazzi was dismissed after Australian scrumhalf Nick Farr-Jones inspired a good drive by the Australian forwards and French boots were seen to take their toll on opposition players.

French coach Jacques Fouroux's gamble of packing his scrum with tall, heavy forwards was a failure as the Australian pack dominated in all spheres on a pitch made heavy by rain and drizzle.

Australia won the first four lineouts of the game and hooker Phil Kearns took two heaves against the head against a young French side who rarely showed a spark of initiative except when fullback and captain Serge Blanco was involved.

The game was in danger of becoming a rout when fullback Greg Martin took a long cut-out pass from Lynagh close to the French line and crashed off one of the goalposts to score the only try of the game.

Lynagh's conversion put his side 21-6 ahead with 30 minutes still left.

Rain wrecks 2nd day of first Test

NOTTINGHAM, England, June 9. (Reuters): New Zealand lost one more wicket in adding 18 runs as rain allowed only 24 minutes play on the second day of the first cricket Test against England yesterday.

Only five overs were bowled when play finally resumed after the tea interval before bad light and then further drizzle halted any further action with New Zealand 189 for six in their first innings.

Overnight batsman Mark Priest straight drove Gladstone Small for three when play finally got underway but then fell for 26 to the first ball of the next over. Seamer Phillip DeFreitas found the edge of Priest's bat to give wicketkeeper Jack Russell a straightforward catch.

Despite the deteriorating conditions, new batsman John Bracewell moved quickly to 13 with several confident shots before umpires Dickie Bird and John Hampshire decided the light was too bad.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND first innings (overnight 171 for five)

T. Franklin	33
J. Wright	8
A. Jones	39
M. Crowe	69
M. Greatbatch	6
P. Pringle	26
M. Smeaton	0
J. Bracewell	15
Extras (b-1 lb-6 w-1)	8
Total (for six wickets)	189
Fall of wickets	1-16 2-75 3-110 4-121 5-170 6-174
To bat	Smith, R. Hadlee, D. Morrison
Bowling to date	Small 25-8-41-1, Malcolm 19-7-48-2, Hemmings 19-6-47-1, DeFreitas 17-3-46-2

Senna claims provisional pole

MONTREAL, June 9. (Reuters): Brazilian Ayrton Senna continued his mastery of Formula One qualifying yesterday by claiming the provisional pole position for tomorrow's Canadian Grand Prix motor race in a course record time.

Senna won a short but exciting duel with McLaren teammate Gerhard Berger of Austria when he guided his Honda-powered car around the 4.39-km (2.73-mile) circuit Gilles Villeneuve in one minute 20.399 seconds to eclipse Alain Prost's mark of 1:20.973 set last year.

Berger, who also bettered the previous record, earned the other front row spot on the provisional grid in 1:20.465.

Senna, who leads the drivers' championship standings with 22 points, will be trying for his third victory of the season and second in a row after winning the Monaco Grand Prix on May 27. Berger is second on 16 points.

World champion Prost was the only other driver to break the record he set in winning the pole here last year.

The Frenchman took his Ferrari around the dusty circuit on his final lap in 1:20.826 in the closing seconds after being mired in eighth place for much of the session.

Italian Alessandro Nannini shares the second row of the provisional grid with Prost after clocking a 1:21.302 in his Benetton.

Nannini's Benetton teammate, three-time world champion Nelson Piquet of Brazil, was next quickest in 1:21.568 ahead of Belgian Thierry Boutsen, who clocked 1:21.599 in his Williams.



Senna (left) with Berger before the practice. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ferrari's Nigel Mansell of Britain and Tyrrell driver Jean Alesi of France, who is third in the standings with 13 points, shared the fourth row.

Sacramento selected

SACRAMENTO, California, June 9. (Reuters): Sacramento has been selected as a charter franchise member of the World League of American Football, the League announced yesterday.

Sacramento became the sixth city to be awarded a team in the international League, which is scheduled to begin competition next March.

The other cities with teams so far are Orlando, Florida; Birmingham, Alabama; and San Antonio, Texas, in the United States, plus Montreal and Barcelona.

Six more cities will be awarded franchises including two more in the United States and one each in Britain, Italy, West Germany and Mexico, the World League said.

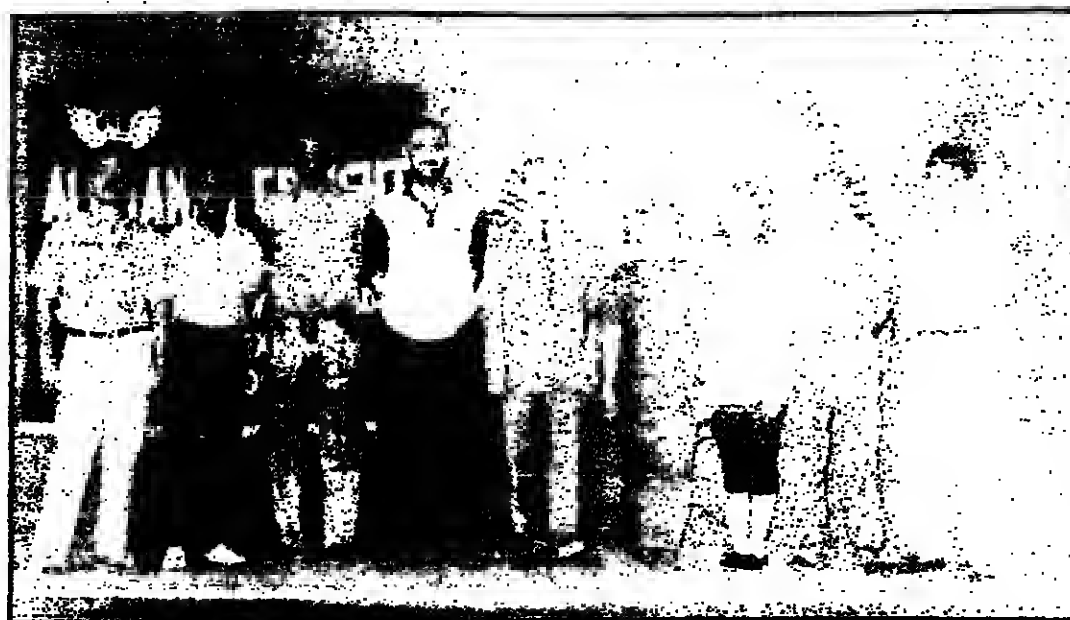
Scotland stay unbeaten

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, June 9. (Reuters): Scotland's rugby union team beat Canterbury 21-12 today to keep an unbeaten record on their New Zealand tour.

After tense early stages marked by scruffles, the Scots started to pull away shortly before half time when British Lions captain Findlay Calder, who quits international rugby after this tour, scored the first of the tourists' two tries.

In the second half, referee Lindsay McLachlan awarded Scotland a penalty try after a scrum was collapsed five metres from the Canterbury line. Fullback Gavin Hastings emerged the match's top scorer with 13 points from three penalty goals and two conversions.

Canterbury failed to score a try in their third consecutive defeat by the Scots. Robbie Deans ran up their points tally with four penalty goals.



The winners with Mahmoud Jalajel (centre).

Al Amer, Baby triumph

By Sonny Mariano

THE Philippine Bowling Association in Kuwait (PBAK) held the finals of the 3rd Al Ghanim Open bowling tournament on Thursday at the Holiday Inn bowling lanes.

Mohammed Al Amer and Baby Penaloza emerged victorious in their respective division after going through the step-ladder system used in the finals. It was a hard earned feat for both champions as they survived the different elimination rounds in order to have a place in the finals.

Going back into the actual step ladder matches, first in the women's division, third ranked Baby Penaloza went up against number two qualifier Cecil Valisno. The high scoring match went to Baby as she outscored Cecil 193-180. This put Baby closer to the coveted title but her opponent, top qualifier Amy Abdon who has been leading in their division ever since the tournament started, looked keen in putting up a fight.

In the first game of their two-game final match, Baby outscored Amy 175-151 to gain a 24-pin advantage going into the second game. With her advantage Baby just coasted along and although Amy won the second game 167-165 it was not enough to deny Baby Penaloza the title. The final tally was 340-318.

In the men's division Mohammed Al Amer, who was the last placed finalist, defied the odds as he overcame every stumbling block on his way to top. After finishing fifth, Al Amer beat Mansour Al Shatti, the number four contender, 165-178. After this victory he didn't find it hard shrugging off the

threat of Fahad Al Ajmi as he won convincingly 190-147.

Everyone in the gallery thought Al Amer's string of success was all over as Fahad Al Hobeishi dominated the next game for most of the way until the last frame. After Fahad missed his spare in the last frame, all that Al Amer needed was a spare to wrap it up. Ironically Al Amer's first throw resulted in a 3-6-7 split set up, which although can be converted into spare, also needed a bit of luck. And luck he had as the crowd applauded in approval after he toppled all the remaining pins that stood on his way to a final showdown with top-ranked Rod Dulay. The only Filipino bowler who made it to the finals.

Al Amer showed a lot of confidence and determination in the two-game final match as he comfortably won the first game 189-155 and then he edged Rod in the second game 204-202 to seal the victory.

For the individual awards, the High Game (221) and High Series (1071) for women was given by Amy Abdon. For the men, the High Game was recorded by Mars Balisi (254) and the High Series of 1137 belonged to Osama.

After the exciting finals Mahmoud Jalajel of Al Ghanim Freight, the sponsor of the tourney awarded the valuable gifts consisting of home appliances to the winners and afterwards the trophies and other gifts were handed out to the winners at the Messalah Beach Hotel, where the Filipino community in Kuwait gathered together for pre independence day celebrations, organised by the Philippine Embassy.

Coming up next this Friday is the most awaited team event of PBAK, billed as the All Filipino Summer League 1990 to be held at the Holiday Inn bowling lanes.

Da Silva wins 200m narrowly

CHIBA, Japan, June 9. (Reuters): Brazilian Robson da Silva withstood a strong challenge from Japan's Susumu Takano in the straight to win the 200 metres at the Japanese National Athletics Championships today.

Da Silva, last year's Grand Prix champion, held the lead at the bend but Takano fought back courageously in the straight and drew almost level at the finish.

Clocked

The 25-year-old Brazilian, who won all but one of his 23 races over 200 last year, clocked 20.79 seconds, 0.03 of a second ahead of Takano.

Igor Potapovich of the Soviet Union, silver medalist in last year's European indoor championships, won the pole vault with a personal outdoor best of 5.80 metres.

Romanian veteran Doina Melinte, the 1984 Olympic champion, won the 800 metres easily.

Lewis to compete in US championships

RALEIGH, North Carolina, June 9. (Reuters): Six-time Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis, who boycotted the US Athletics Championships last year, will compete in this year's event, a spokesman for the sprinter said yesterday.

Joe Douglas, business manager for Lewis, told Reuters in a telephone interview that the athlete and his team-mates at the Santa Monica Track Club would all take part in next week's championships despite past differences with the Athletics Congress (TAC) which governs the sport in the United States.

"We will be at TAC, the entire team," Douglas, a co-founder of the club, said from his office in Santa Monica, California.

Lewis had earlier said he had missed too much training while working on his biography this winter to be ready for the TAC National Championships which begin on Tuesday at Norwalk, California.

However, Douglas said a decision was reached late Thursday night for Lewis to run in the 100 metres in which he is the world record holder.

"Tom Tellez (Lewis's coach) is concerned," Douglas said. "But we will take one race at a time. I can't guarantee that he will be in the finals."

Lewis ran his first race in almost nine months on Thursday night in Houston and did not look impressive in clocking 10.42 seconds, a half-second off his world record.

TAC officials said earlier this week if Lewis made one long jump or ran one race in the meeting he would be eligible for the Goodwill Games in Seattle next month.

Notts stay on top

LONDON, June 9. (Reuters): Table-topping Nottinghamshire retained their lead in the county cricket championship yesterday without even playing as rain prevented a finish in any of the matches.

Second-placed Hampshire, four points behind Nottinghamshire, a 89 before the current round of matches, managed to gather only three despite declaring in an attempt to force a finish in their match against Somerset.

Opener Chris Smith hit an unbeaten 73 to enable Hampshire captain Mark Nicholas to declare at 152 for four. But with 20 overs lost because of a downpour, Somerset had no chance of even attempting to score the 321 they needed and further rain finally ended play.

Results

At Tumbidge wells: Kent v Yorkshire match abandoned as a draw. Kent 333 for five declared and second innings forfeited. Yorkshire 33 for one declared and 23 for one. Kent four points, Yorkshire

two.

At Northampton: Northamptonshire v Leicestershire - match abandoned as a draw. Leicestershire 261 in 82.2 overs and 46 for two. Northamptonshire 95 for one declared in 26 overs. Northamptonshire four points, Leicestershire three.

At Basingstoke: Hampshire v Somerset match abandoned as a draw. Hampshire 257 for six declared in 98 overs and 152 for four declared. Somerset 89 for no wicket declared in 18.2 overs and 84 for one. Hampshire three points, Somerset two.

At Ilford: Essex v Gloucestershire - match drawn. Essex 425 for four declared in 102 overs and 67 for one. Gloucestershire 398 for seven declared in 105.4 overs. Essex six points, Gloucestershire four.

At Lord's: Middlesex v Warwickshire match drawn. Warwickshire 372 for four declared in 10 overs and 143 for one declared (A. Miles 65 not out, Asif Din 44). Middlesex 243 in 81.5 overs and 122 for three (K. Brown 41 not out). Middlesex two points, Warwickshire eight.

At the Oval: Surrey v Derbyshire - match drawn. Derbyshire 275 in 102.1 overs and 144 for no wicket declared (P. Bowler 85 not out, K. Barnett 51 not out). Surrey 152 for two declared in 52.1 overs and 161 for no wicket (R. Atkinson 82 not out, G. Clinton 70 not out). Surrey five points, Derbyshire three.

Other match: At Oxford: Oxford University v Nottinghamshire - match drawn. Nottinghamshire 201 for three declared and 118 for one declared.

Giants bury Braves

ATLANTA, June 9. (AP): Will Clark said San Francisco's record-setting offensive binge "got to the point where it was contagious."

"Everybody was running for the batrack," Clark said after the Giants unleashed a 27-hit attack last night and buried the Atlanta Braves, 23-8 for their seventh straight victory.

Clark drove in six runs with a pair of three-run homers and rookie Rick Parker also had six RBIs with a three-run homer, a two-run single and an RBI double.

"I've never had a night like that before at any level," Parker said after playing in only his 17th Major League game.

Results

American League

1-Seattle	5	2-Detroit	2 (10)
2-Detroit	6	3-Seattle	3
3-Baltimore	6	4-NY Yankees	4 (10)
4-Boston	4	5-Cleveland	3
5-Chicago	3	6-Minnesota	2
6-Toronto	11	7-Milwaukee	5
7-Texas	10	8-California	6
8-Oakland	3	9-Kansas City	1

National League

1-Chicago Cubs	15	2-Philadelphia	2
2-Montreal	18	3-St Louis	2
3-San Francisco	23	4-Atlanta	8
4-Houston	3	5-Cincinnati	1
5-NY Mets	7	6-Pittsburgh	1
6-San Diego	12	7-Los Angeles	6

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West Germany capable of winning World Cup: Beckenbauer

ERBA, Italy, June 9. (Reuters) Franz Beckenbauer today declared his confidence in West Germany's ability to win the World Cup but warned that the opposition would be strong in tomorrow's first match against Yugoslavia.

"Our preparation was excellent in the last four weeks. We worked very hard," he said at his team's base near Lake Como, north of Milan, the city where they play all their Group D matches.

"That makes me optimistic... we are strong enough to win the title." But yesterday's defeat of defending champions Argentina by African outsiders Cameroon has given all the favourites a powerful warning against complacency, and Beckenbauer expressed the greatest respect for Yugoslavia.

"They have a very good team. Even if they lost their last two matches (against Spain and the Netherlands) they didn't play worse than their opponents, and some of the time they were better," he said.

"They didn't convert their chances. That's why they lost. They have a very stable defence, an excellent midfield with Sijckovic and Susic, and two dangerously dangerous strikers, if they both play, in Vujovic and Savicevic.

The West Germans inspected the San Siro pitch in the morning and Beckenbauer said the stadium was one of the finest in the world.

Beckenbauer praised Cameroon's 1-0 victory over Argentina and their ability to score after they had been reduced to 10 men.

Seles makes history

16-year-old Yugoslav beats Graf for title

PARIS, June 9. (Reuters) Sixteen-year-old Yugoslav Monica Seles became the youngest-ever winner of the French Tennis Open women's singles title when she beat world number one Steffi Graf of West Germany 7-6 (8-6) 6-4 today.

Seles, the second seed, scored a gripping victory with a superior demonstration of power, speed and talent over the top-seeded West German, the champion in 1987 and 1988.

The Yugoslav, who lives in Florida, saved four set points in a first set tie-break before streaking ahead in the second set to clinch the match and almost \$300,000 in prize money.

"I really wanted it and I've

really worked hard with my father for it. I can't believe the thrill," Seles said after the match.

Seles's parents wept with joy in the stands of the packed Roland Garros stadium after Graf hit a forehand long to give her opponent the match.

Defeat against Seles was another bitter blow for the 20-year-old West German. She lost to Seles last month in Berlin — ending a 66-match unbeaten run — and lost last year's French Open final to another youngster, Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, then aged 17.

Seles, who said she was flying to Italy on Sunday to watch World Cup soccer, showed no signs in her 88-minute dissection

of Graf of the fatigue she has complained of during the two-week tournament.

She rushed to 3-0 ahead in a rain-interrupted first set before Graf clawed back to force a tie-break which she led 6-2 before the gutsy Yugoslav took the next six points for the set.

Seles took the first three games of the second set, pinning Graf to the back of the court with her powerful double-handed forehand and backhand.

Graf's normal computer-like strokes were also slightly off target as she sought her 10th Grand Slam title.

"I'm lacking confidence at the moment, making more mistakes and not making winners like I

used to. There's something missing," a disappointed Graf said after the match.

The last games of the second set were an enthralling series of long rallies between brutal hitters. Against the odds, it was Seles whose shots found the mark, while Graf's sliced backhands presented little challenge to the Yugoslav.

Seles held her own service with difficulty to go 5-4 up, but Graf appeared to cave in during the last game.

The Yugoslav, who reached the semifinals in Paris last year, rushed to the stands where her parents were dancing with joy before accepting the winner's trophy.

Colombia struggle past UAE

BOLOGNA, June 9. (Reuters) Carlos Valderrama, the hardest worker in the Colombian team, was rewarded with a goal as his side beat the United Arab Emirates 2-0 in the opening World Cup Group D match today.

Valderrama, a dynamo in midfield throughout the often scrappy match, raced down the left to shoot into the bottom corner of the net with just three minutes left.

Bernardo Redin had put the Colombians ahead in the 50th minute when he dived to head home a cross from Leonel Alvarez which goalkeeper Mohsin Mosabab Faraj failed to reach.

The Emirates, newcomers to the finals, were tenacious in defence and though star striker Adnan Khamis Talyani had several shots at goal, the team as a whole were too ragged to threaten the South Americans.

The result gave Colombia a psychological advantage over Yugoslavia, their next opponents, who face twice champions West Germany in tomorrow's second Group D match.

Shock-haired Valderrama, with French club Montpellier, came in for the closest marking and was brought down by Essa Meer only minutes into the game at Bologna's Dell'Arena Stadium.

English referee George Courtney, adhering to FIFA's request to crack down on offenders, produced the yellow card and also booked two other UAE players, Yousef Hussain Mohammed and Ibrahim Meer, Essa Meer's twin, in the second half.

Colombia, absent from the finals since 1962, nearly came to grief in the closing minutes of the first half.

Defender Andres Escobar chipped the ball back to goalkeeper Rene Higuita, unaware that the Emirati Ali Thani Juma was lurking within reach.

Ali Thani stole the ball and tried a snap shot and though his effort was blocked by Higuita, Talyani was only just wide with the rebound.

Mystery Egypt have taken to training behind closed doors to build an element of mystery into their first World Cup finals appearance for 56 years.

Journalists hoping to watch them work out today were turned away by police at the gates of their training camp in Carini, west of Palermo.

Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker, whose team play Egypt on Tuesday, admits he knows little about Egypt's style but he and his players are studying videotapes of the Africans in action.

Challenge

England manager Bobby Robson said today he was looking upon the World Cup finals as his "last big challenge," in international soccer before he joined Dutch club PSV Eindhoven.

Robson said: "It means a lot to me. I cannot say I will give more effort than I did for the last World Cup finals or the European championships finals in 1988, but I am really looking forward to it — despite what may lie ahead."



Valderrama is airborne after being fouled by Essa Meer. (Reuters wirephoto)

Romanians stun Soviets

BARI, June 9. (Reuters) Marius Lacatus scored twice to inspire Romania to a surprise 2-0 win over the Soviet Union in their World Cup Group B match today.

Lacatus struck in each half, the second from a penalty, as the speedy Romanians tore apart the Soviets, who looked a shadow of the side that reached the final of the European Championship in 1988.

The Steaua Bucharest forward gave Soviet goalkeeper Rinat Dasayev no chance with a powerful right-foot drive in the 40th minute. He then converted

a penalty in the 55th minute after defender Oleg Khidiatulin was harshly penalised for banding the ball on the edge of the penalty box.

It was the second upset in Group B after Cameroon beat champions Argentina 1-0 yesterday.

It was also a perfect start to the competition for about 2,000 Romanian supporters — 1,000 of whom are on an all expenses paid trip provided by the Italian authorities in recognition of the Romanian revolution last December.



Colombia's Arnaldo Iguaran (left) goes for the ball against UAE's Khalil Ghanim Below. Romania's Rotanu (left) and Soviet striker Zavarov fight for the ball. (Reuters wirephotos)

The Soviet Union, fielding the nucleus of the side who lost to the Netherlands in the European Championship final, looked tired and past their peak.

Lacatus and Florin Raducioiu tore their defence apart in the second half and could have had a hatful of goals.

"They forced a series of spectacular saves from Dasayev and Lacatus missed a chance to complete his hat-trick late in the game when shot just wide from close range."

The Soviets used the same slow build-up that brought them success in 1988 but were unable to break down the solid Romanian defence.

Only midfielder Alexander Zavarov provided any inspiration. He forced two good saves from Romanian goalkeeper Silviu Lung and Oleg Protasov obliged Lung to block the ball with his body in the first half.

Romanians were pleased their national team beat the Soviet Union but there was no jubilation in the streets.

Main roads in central Bucharest filled quickly with traffic immediately after the game in Italy as people switched of their television sets and went out.

But no one would have guessed the Romanians, who started underdogs, had just beaten the leading European communist power, still a Warsaw Pact ally.

To foreign observers, the victory held a touch of piquancy for a country which overthrew a communist regime less than six months ago.

But even among anti-communist demonstrators camped in a main road in central Bucharest, there was no sign of celebration — in contrast to the jubilation in Yaounde when Cameroon scored an upset victory over Argentina.

(See also Page 22)



Seles (left) holds up her trophy while Graf holds her head. (Reuters wirephotos)



Stewart aims for 3rd win of season

OAK BROOK, Illinois, June 9. (Reuters) Payne Stewart took a big step toward his third victory of the season as he fired a five-under-par 67 yesterday to take the lead after 36 holes of the Western Open golf tournament.

Stewart stood at nine-under-par 135 at the Bunker National Golf Club for a one-shot lead over Wayne Levi and Mark Brooks in a round that was delayed by one hour due to a heavy early morning thunderstorm.

Although there are several strong challengers close behind, Stewart was confident after showing improvement over his opening round 68.

Jose Maria Olazabel, the young Spanish star of the European Tour, recorded a fine 68 for five-under-par 139 and was tied with Steve Pate, Tom Watson, Australian Greg Norman and Chip Beck were at 140 with Roberts.

It took a score of three-over-par 147 to qualify for the final two days of play and among those who just made it were such luminaries as Seve Ballesteros of Spain (77-70), and Britons Nick Faldo (77-75) and Sandy Lyle (71-76).

Bridge

THE Kuwait Bridge Committee on Saturday organised Epson Bridge Contest No 90 at the Sheraton Hotel. The results were as follows:

N/S 1. Dr Hussein Al Ziad & Ibrahim Oat-lan

2. D. Mukerjee & Ravi Bhatti

3. Majeed Khalid & Adel Subaih

EW 1. Carsten & Amei

2. Aurora & Jaggi

3. Dr Oskay & Tamil Koksal

Lendl, Edberg in semifinals

BECKENHAM, England, June 9. (Reuters) Ivan Lendl and Stefan Edberg, the world's top two players, continued their predictable path towards the final of the Beckenham Lawn Tennis Championships today.

But Lendl's progress through his quarterfinal clash with American qualifier Steve Devries, and into a semifinal to be played later today, was far from convincing.

He lost his service three times and was 4-0 down in the second set before staging a recovery which carried him to a 6-4 7-6 victory.

With Wimbledon only two weeks away, Lendl could not be happy with his form. He was slow following his serve to the net, made several volleying errors and did not show anything like the sharpness expected of the world number one until the tie break, which he took 7-1.

Edberg was a little more convincing as he reached the last four with a 6-4 6-4 win over Mark Wood-ford, the Australian left hander who beat him in their only two previous meetings and who had a match point against Lendl at Wimbledon two years ago.

Senior takes one-shot lead

DROTTHINGHOLM, Sweden, June 9. (Reuters) Australian Open and PGA champion Peter Senior took the halfway lead with a 67 for a 10-under-par 134 in the Scandinavian Open golf tournament at Drottningholm yesterday.

The 33-year-old Australian, who makes his first appearance in the US Open in Chicago next Thursday, birdied four of the last seven holes.

He edged a stroke clear of compatriot Peter McWhinney, who had an eagle and a birdie in the last three holes for a 68, and Britain's Gordon Brand Junior, round in a best of the day 66.

Joint overnight leaders Howard Clark of Britain and Sweden's Johan Rydstrom returned 71s to share fourth spot a stroke further back on 136 with another Australian Craig Parry (70), also due to make his US Open debut next week.

They were joined by Canada's Jim Rutledge, who matched Brand's 66, and Spain's Miguel Jimenez who holed in one with an eight iron at the short 175 yards 17th on his way to a 69.

Salsabil wins

EPSOM, England, June 9. (Reuters) Result of the English Oaks horse racing classic for three-year-old fillies run over 12 furlongs (2.4 km) today (value to winner £101,475, \$170,400):

1. Salsabil (ridden by Willie Carson) 2-1 favourite

2. Game Plan (Basil Marcus) 50-11

3. Knight's Baroness (Richard Quinn) 16-1

Distances: five lengths, one.

Winner owned by Hamdan Al Maktoum and trained by John Dunlop at Arundel, England.

Moon stops Roman to retain title



Moon (left) trades punches with Roman. (Reuters wirephoto)

SEOUL, June 9. (Reuters) South Korean Moon Sungh-Kil retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) super-flyweight title when challenger Gilberto Roman of Mexico retired after the eighth round of their scheduled 12-round bout today.

Roman, who weathered a fierce onslaught in the eighth round, looked too tired and told the referee that he would not come out for the ninth round.

Making his first defence of the title he wrested from Nana Konadu of Ghana in January, the 26-year-old Moon

made a good start, flooring Roman in the first round with a solid left hook to the chin.

Roman, 28, the former champion who lost the WBC crown to Konadulasi December, fought bravely despite a cut over his right eye but Moon always appeared to have the edge in punching power and speed.

Moon constantly battered the challenger with fearsome flurries to the body and head in the eighth round but failed to knock him out.

The victory improved Moon's record to 12 wins, none by knockouts.

Van Basten praises England

PALERMO, June 9. (Reuters) Dutch striker Marco van Basten today praised the type of soccer played by England, one of the Netherlands' first round rivals at the World Cup.

"They don't play the normal kind of football associated with England, they play a more clever game," he said.

"England use the wings very well and in Peter Beardsley they

have a particularly gifted player," he added.

Van Basten, who destroyed England with a hat-trick in the European championships two years ago, was familiar with most of the likely England players.

But ironically he had not heard of Des Walker, the pacey central defender who could well be asked to shadow him in their Group F clash next Saturday.

Bishop signed

ROME, June 9. (Reuters) All World Cup squads have team doctors, some have team cooks. Costa Rica have a team bishop.

To ensure they could celebrate mass each day, the strict Catholics from Central America signed up Italian Bishop Lino Cusiberti, who worked in Colombia for 30 years and lives near the Costa Rican training camp.